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Thursday August 20 1998

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Susan Faludi on:

What women really think about Clinton

G2 with European weather

Filling up with petrol

Consumer with a clear conscience?

G2 pages 10-11

Online

View from the code face

G2 pages 12-13

Irish in terror crackdown

'Draconian' move targets Real IRA

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish government yesterday announced the toughest crackdown on republican terrorism in the country's history as 16 more victims of the Omagh massacre were buried.

The indications last night were that the leaders of the Real IRA would be arrested as soon as the proposals become law. Parliament is to be recalled to rush through the legislation early next month.

The move came as David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, in an unprecedented move, attended the funerals of three young Catholic victims of the Omagh bombing in Buncrana, Co Donegal. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, was also there.

James Barker, aged 12, Sean McLoughlin, 12, and eight-year-old Oran Doherty died on a day outing to the County Tyrone town.

Seamus Heggarty, Bishop of Derry, welcomed Mr Trimble and Mr Adams to St Mary's Catholic Church in the seaside resort just across the Irish border. He told them that people were relying on them to build on the gains already made after the Good Friday agreement.

The Real IRA was becoming yet more isolated, despite its late night announcement on Tuesday that it was suspending its military operations. It was sending a confused message, for an earlier statement indicated that its war against the British would continue, and there was widespread scepticism about the move.

Sinn Fein is thought to have played a key role in forcing the about-turn. Mitchel McLaughlin, its chairman, said there had been contacts with the Real IRA through intermediaries since the worst atrocity in 30 years of The Troubles.

Bertie Ahern, the Irish prime minister, aware that the Real IRA's leadership is based in the Republic, revealed a package of what he called draconian measures against renegade republican terrorists. The announcement came after an emergency cabinet meeting.

The measures include restrictions on the right to silence. New offences will also be created: directing an unlawful organisation, withholding information and training in the use of firearms or explosives. There will be a diminution in the proof required to show a suspect is a member of a proscribed organisation.

Civil liberties campaigners said that the measures amounted to effective internment.

Mr Ahern said: "These measures are extremely draconian but I am not prepared to take a chance with anything else. These measures have to be implemented quickly."

The clampdown was warmly welcomed by Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, who is also considering ways of more easily securing terrorist convictions. She said: "This means that we now have the strongest ever anti-terrorist measures across the whole of the island."

Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, vice-chair of the 32-County Sovereignty Movement, widely believed to be the political wing of the Real IRA, yesterday broke her silence. She spoke to Live Line, an RTE radio programme, on the telephone from the shop she runs with her partner, Michael McKevitt.

Ms Sands-McKevitt, sister of Bobby Sands, first of the 10 republican hunger strikers to die in the Maze Prison in 1981, said of the bombing: "It is condemned. We will not condone it. The loss of innocent lives cannot be justified."

The couple telephoned Father Desmond Campbell, aged 80, their parish priest on Tuesday, to tell them they had nothing to do with the bombing. Ms Sands-McKevitt had broken down in tears and Mr McKevitt said he had "no hand, act or party" in the atrocity.

'Land of shadow and appalling pain', page 2; Leader comment, page 9

Read my tie: wherever I go, whoever I'm with, I'm thinking of you

August 6: The day Monica Lewinsky goes before a grand jury, Mr Clinton sports the Zegna tie she reportedly gave him

July 9: With prosecutors working to persuade Ms Lewinsky to testify about her relationship with the president, Mr Clinton wears the tie on a trip to Atlanta

PHOTOGRAPHS: DENNIS COOK/RICK FELD (main)/SCOTT APPLEWHITE

June 24: The tie's owner heads for China, a visit advisers hoped would distract attention from the growing scandal

Martin Kettle in Washington

CALL him Mr Meticulous or call him a man who just can't see the wood for the trees, but Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor investigating the president, certainly leaves no stone unturned in his search for further proof of Bill Clinton's misdeeds.

In a new revelation that illustrates both Mr Starr's bottomless capacity for suspicion and Mr Clinton's penchant for flirting with danger, it emerged yesterday that during Monday's fateful inquisition in the White House Map Room by the prosecution team, the United States president was quizzed about the significance of his choice of ties.

Why, they asked, did he choose to wear a gold and blue designer tie when he made a televised speech in the White House Rose Garden on August 6 about America's handgun law?

The tie, made by Ermenegildo Zegna, is said to be one of six ties given to the president by Monica Lewinsky. Mr Starr is looking into whether the president committed perjury in trying to cover up his affair with her.

Like its owner, the tie itself was even subpoenaed by Mr Starr earlier this year, but Mr Clinton failed to hand it over.

Then it popped up at the Rose Garden speech — on the same day that Ms Lewinsky gave her long awaited grand jury testimony about what she says was an 18-month affair.

She is said to have told a friend that she gave the tie to Mr Clinton saying, "When I see you wearing this tie I'll know that I am close to your heart".

The prosecutors therefore wanted to know if Mr Clinton was trying to send Ms Lewinsky a private signal, though she was already well ensconsed in the grand jury room by the time he spoke on television.

Mr Clinton told his interrogators, in what is being described in Washington as "a rare light moment in a gruelling session" that he was not trying to communicate anything — to anybody.

Mr Starr's staff are not so sure, noting other sightings of the Zegna tie. Mr Clinton wore it on June 24, when he left on his state visit to China, and again on July 4 Independence Day, when he returned from China, and yet again a few days later during a visit to Atlanta.

All of which raises the question of whether there was any similar cryptic significance to the blue patterned tie that Mr Clinton wore during Monday night's broadcast when he admitted "inappropriate" relations with the former intern. Yesterday, the internet Drudge Report claimed that it was the first tie Ms Lewinsky ever gave him, back in 1995.

If that is so, when Ms Lewinsky gives further grand jury testimony today, Mr Starr is certain to ask her more knotty questions.

Clinton scandal, page 7; Decca Aitkenhead, page 8; Women, G2 pages 4,5

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THE LONDON INSTITUTE

A level pass rate rises again – but only by 0.2 pc

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE examination boards last night announced the smallest improvement for more than a decade in the A level pass rate. But university authorities forecast there would still be enough qualified applicants to fill their vacancies at the start of the first year of undergraduate tuition fees.

As results were distributed to schools and colleges for release to candidates today, examiners said the pass rate had increased by 0.2 per cent to 87.8 per cent. This was the lowest rise for 15 years, since the removal of a ceiling on the pass rate stopping more than 70 per cent of candidates getting the award.

Ministers hoped the slackening in the pace of improvement would take the sting out of complaints from traditionalists that better results were the result of lowering of the exam standard instead of more effective teaching and learning.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said he was "confident that these results reflect real achievement" and Ron McLone, convenor of the joint forum of examiners, said the exam was the most tightly regulated test of academic attainment in the world.

But there were questions last night about the manner in which the examiners might have manipulated the statistics by comparing this year's provisional figures with last year's final revised results.

Alan Smithers, head of the centre for education and employment research at Liverpool University, said the real increase in the pass rate was 0.7 per cent — the difference between last year's provisional results and today's figures. Usually the final figure is about 0.5 per cent higher after contested papers have been reconsidered. "I suspect that the examining boards are doing this because they are tired of being accused of dumbing down".

A spokeswoman for the boards denied any attempt to rig the figures. She conceded that the figures issued 12 months ago compared provisional results for 1997 with provisional results in 1996. This year's figures were drawn up on the same basis as in every year before 1997.

In spite of this wrangle, there was little doubt among university admissions officers that the results were good enough to ensure that their vacancies would be filled by the start of term. Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said: "Universities will have no more and no less difficulty than in previous years, and predictions of doom and gloom about the impact of tuition fees have not been realised."

There are likely to be about 50,000 vacancies at universities and colleges of higher education to be filled by candidates whose results today are not good enough to take up conditional offers and those who have not yet started trying to negotiate a place. According to the exam board figures, 16.8 per cent of candidates passed with the top A grade, an increase of 0.6 per cent. There was 0.1 per cent drop in the proportion of grade Bs, but a 0.3 per cent increase in grade Cs.

Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, said: "If these results do show grade inflation is coming to an end, that is good news. But one year's results cannot be relied upon."

Prof Smithers said the A level pass rate was likely to reach a plateau at about 90 per cent.

Maths and science revival, page 4; Leader comment, page 9

Inside

Britain
Four drowned people died when their boat got caught in a lock gate and sank on the Leeds-Liverpool canal.
5

World News
Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe has pledged that nine African countries will offer military aid to the beleaguered Congolese president.
6

Analysis
Has Norman Lamont's view that unemployment was a price worth paying for lower inflation returned to haunt Labour?
11

Finance
Boots, Britain's largest drugs retailer, completed the sale of its Do It All chain to the Focus Retail Group for £68m.
12

Obituaries 10; Comment 8
Crossword 16
G2
Quick Crossword 15
TV, Radio and Weather 16

34
9 770261 307347

'It is a place of grief — a land of shadow and appalling pain'

Sinn Fein leaders Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams (left) look on as the coffins of Sean McLoughlin, James Barker and Oran Doherty are carried into the church PHOTOGRAPH: DAN CHUNG

A children's choir sang, onlookers broke down and the gardi saluted. **Rory Carroll** on another day of mourning for young bomb victims

A TOWN of 8,000 people snrrounded her in the drizzle offering all they could, but Donna Maria Barker only wanted to touch the teak coffin containing her 12-year-old son, James.

Her palm slid backwards and forwards until a pallbearer gently prised it away, allowing the coffin to be carried inside St Mary's Church, Buncrana, Co Donegal.

Onlookers broke down as it was followed by the coffins of Oran Doherty, aged eight, and Sean McLoughlin, 12. A children's choir sang Here I Am Lord. A guard of honour was formed by dozens of classmates from Scoil Iosagáin.

Tears and tiredness from the previous night's candle-lit vigil, to receive the convoy returning from Omagh, had left many red-eyed. Children too young to write their names tried to sign books of condolence. Bewildered tourists at the seaside resort followed suit.

A neighbour of the McLoughlins and Dohertys, four doors apart at Knockalla Drive, covered her eyes as the cortege left for the church. The walls were too much.

Spanish and Irish flags hung at half mast. Speakers set up to hroadcast the Requiem mass to the crowd outside relayed sobs as the coffins were carried inside the church, huilt 151 years ago hy famine victims.

Sinn Feln's Gerry Adams ahd Martin McGuinness, who was marrled there, followed. Inside were Mary McAleese, Ireland's president, the British and Irish ambassadors, Duhlin government ministers and Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister.

There was also David Trimble, First Minister and Ulster Unionist leader, who had chosen to come here instead of attending one of the day's 13 funerals in the North. A political journey of a thousand miles, the goodwill gesture was warmly welcomed by Seamus Hegarty, the Bishop of Derry, who denounced those who conceived, built, and transported the bomb.

"I ask them to repent, to resolve firmly, to give up their immoral trade in destruction and death — not temporarily or conditionally hut permanently, and to seek God's forgiveness for the atrocity that they have done. I pray and ask you to pray for their conversion to the path of Christ."

The congregation, almost 100 per cent Catholic, applauded his welcome to Mr Trimble.

Shane Bradley, Buncrana parish priest and originally from Omagh, said Buncrana had turned into a strange and alien place.

"It is a place of indescribable grief — a land of shadow and appalling paln, for which there are no words. It is an eerie, eerie place — lonely, desolate and full of inconsolable torment. It is a place no one, absolutely no one. should ever have to visit.

"And we got here against our will as a result of a terrifying evil act, as people who seem to have such a distorted grip on reality that they thought they could further their cause by the planting of a bomh.

"Is this our saddest moment, our darkest hour? If it is, then will it herald a new dawn and a new light? I hope and pray so."

A Spanish prayer was read in memory of the two other victims who did not return from the day trip to Omagh, Fernando Blasco, 12, and Rocio Abad Ramos, 23.

Sunshine replaced drizzle when the coffins emerged into the graveyard. Oran's beloved Celtic football club was represented by coaching staff and and by Danish international defender, Marc Rieper.

Oran was dressed in a Celtic shirt, his coffin draped in its flag.

Gardi saluted the procession as it wound its way past headstones.

Relatlves grlpped each other so tight the knuckles shone. Three holes garlanded with flowers awaited them at the top of the graveyard. Yellow and green mountains rose gently on all sides.

Incense was sprinkled. Relatives dropped red roses as the coffins were lowered. It became too much. A low keening swelled and was picked up by microphones. The crowd listened aghast at what sounded like animals whimpering.

Crying children pressed their faces into the priests' purple and white robes. Helpless, Father Bradley hlanched. "Dear, dear," he said.

Yesterday's other funerals

Brenda Logue, 17, of Loughmacrory, Co. Tyrone, at St Mary's Church.

The teenager, a talented goalkeeper for her local Gaelic football club, had been shopping with her mother and grandmother. She stepped outside the shop to see what the commotion was at the time of the blast.

Breda Devine, 21 months, of Donemana, Co Tyrone, at St Mary's Church, Aughabrack.

Her mother Tracey, who had been shopping for shoes for Breda to wear as a flower girl at her brother's wedding this Saturday, was critically injured in the bombing.

Dr Edward Daly, retired bishop of Derry, who helped the wounded and dying in the chaos of Bloody Sunday in 1972, said at the service that the murder was "evil of the most horrifying and obscene nature".

SDLP leader John Hume and Mary Wallace, representing Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern, joined hundreds of people from the scattered community.

Fred and Bryan White, of Omagh, aged 80 and 26 at Creeven Presbyterian Church.

Father and son, they were taken to the Old Drumragh burying ground following the service.

First Minister David Trimble and fellow Ulster Unionists Ken Maginnis and Willie Thompson were among the mourners. Fred was an Ulster Unionist party member in Omagh whose death Mr Thompson said he felt personally.

Joanne Marlow, 17, of Eskra, near Omagh, at St Patrick's Church.

An A-level student awaiting her results, she had also been doing work experience at Tyrone County Hospital.

Adrian Gallagher, 21, of Omagh, at St Mary's Church.

A mechanic who ran a car repair firm with his father, he died shopping for new working boots and jeans.

Olive Hawkes, 60, of Mayne, near Omagh, at the Methodist Church.

Philomena Skelton, 49, of Drumquin, at St Patrick's Church.

A mother-of-four, she only visited Omagh twice a year. On Saturday she was in town with her husband and three daughters to buy school uniforms.

Alan Radford, 16, of Omagh, was honoured at a Mormon service.

He was one of the last victims to be identified. His father, former soldier Melvin Radford, was critically injured 10 years ago when a terrorist bomb ripped through his unmarked Army van. He had not seen his son for five years and returned from South Yorkshire for yesterday's funeral.

Mary Grimes, at 65 the oldest victim, of Beragh, near Omagh, at her Catholic parish church.

Her daughter Avril Monaghan and granddaughter Maura were also killed.

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Archbishop Sean Brady, urged everyone to work together to ensure a similar tragedy never happened again.

"We owe it to the memory of those who have died to make sure that this does not happen, and to do all we can to guarantee that they have not died in vain," he said.

Vida Short, 58, from Beragh, at Sesknore Presbyterian church.

A grandmother and mother of three. She died with colleagues at Omagh's Watterson's clothing store.

Gareth Conway, 18, from Carrickmore, near Omagh.

He had recently left Omagh Technical College and was about to enrol on an engineering course.

Lorraine Wilson, 15, of Omagh, at Cappagh Parish Church, a Church of Ireland chapel.

She had been working as a volunteer in the town's Oxfam shop at the time of the blast.

Dr James Mehaffey, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe said that the teenager, who he remembered confirming, had been an example to others in the way that she had given her time so freely for charity.

He called on her friends and the young people in Northern Ireland to dedicate their lives to others as she did and strive for peace.

"Work with people from different backgrounds, build up respect to those who have different religions and different politics and cultures," he said.

Real IRA pushed beyond the margins

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE Real IRA was yesterday an organisation in disarray, squeezed on all fronts and unsure how to react to the consequences of tbe Omagh bombing.

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, announced draconian measures which will lead to the arrest of the Real IRA's leading players early next month.

Sinn Fein said it had been in contact with the group, through intermediaries, and hinted it should win some credit for persuading the Real IRA to announce its suspension of military operations.

And in Dundalk, just inside the Irish Republic, where there has long been tacit acceptance of the IRA, the mood was swinging firmly against the 32-County Sovereignty Movement, the Real IRA's political wing. It is based in the Co Louth town.

The conflicting messages which the Real IRA seot out on Tuesday underlined the confusion. There were 13 hours hetween the calls, received at the Duhlin offices of the Irish News, Northern Ireland's nationalist newspaper.

The Real IRA's first, a confession to mass murder in Omagh, struck a defiant note. It was received at 10.30am on Tuesday, and spoke of the ongoing war against the British.

At 11.35pm, a caller using the same codeword rang back, this time on Duhlin correspondent Michael O'Toole's mohile phone. The Real IRA, was after all suspending its military operations, though it stopped short of announcing a ceasefire.

The second statement read: "As a result of the Omagh tragedy and also in response to the appeals of Bertie Ahern and others, we are embarking on a process of consultation on our future direction. In the meantime, all military operations have beeo suspended from midnight." But it seems Sinn Fein was exerting influence hehind the scenes. Mitchel McLaughlin, chairman, said yesterday there had been discussions.

The Real IRA's leaders will have been shocked at Sinn Fein's willingness to fingerpoint. It looks like the end of the road for violent republicanism, with Sinn Fein approaching the Irish National Liberation Army and the Continuity Army to persuade them to give up violence.

The Real IRA, formed last year in opposition to Sinn Fein's participation in the Stormont talks, has maybe 30 top veterans involved. The othars are believed to be inexperienced idealists, the vast majority now expected to recoil from the outfit.

The isolatioo was acute yesterday in Dundalk. Michael McKevitt and his common-law wife, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, leading lights in the 32-County Sovereignty movement, believed to be the political wing of the Real IRA, were viewed as pariahs.

Brendan McGahon, Fine Gael TD, said: "There are undesirable elements living in this town over the last 30 years. But this crime has sickened the sneaking regard these people have enjoyed. They have sickened even IRA supporters."

Protesters were gathering last night in Blackrock, a seaside village three miles south of Dundalk. The McKevitts have lived there for eight years, and people were threatening to march on their semi-detached home in a middle-class cul-de-sac.

Executives from the company which runs the Long Walk, the five-year-old shopping mall where the couple run the Print Junction, arrived from London to investigate ways of booting them out.

Ms Sands-McKevitt, 39, in a telephone interview on Joe Duffy's radio programme on RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, said of the bombing: "We will not condone it."

Bertie Ahern (centre), with his deputy Mary Harney and jnstice minister John O'Donoghue, announces the proposals

Dublin's draconian measures

Duncan Campbell on plans that would make Irish law tougher than British

THE new measures announced by the Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, yesterday would make the Irish laws on terrorism more stringent in some areas than those currently operatiog in thls country.

What Mr Ahern called a "draconian" package of security measures will be debated in the Dail in emergency session in two weeks' time.

The meaaures will add extra powers to those already incorporated in the Offences Against the State Acts of 1939 and 1985. The Irish Republic already has the power of internment, which was removed from the UK statute book last year, having been introdnced in 1973.

The main changes being proposed are:

Right to silence: The changes will make it possible to draw "inferences" from a suspect's failure to answer police questions, which could corroborate a senior officer's opinion that the suspect is a memhar of an unlawful organisation.

This is a step further than the laws on silence in the UK, where, since the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act of 1994, is has been possible for guilt to be inferred from a defendant's refusal to answer queations at the time of arrest.

Detention: Currently suspects can be held for 48 hours. This will be increased to 96 hours. Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in this country, the police can detain a terrorist suspect for 48 hours and then a further five days on the authority of the Home Secretary.

Withholding information: It will become an offence to withhold information in connection with terrorist acts or plans. This is similar to the section of the PTA hare, under which "withholding information or failing to disclose information likely to be of material assistance in preventing an act of terrorism or in securing the apprehension of a terrorist" is an offence punishahle hy five years' imprisonment.

Civil liberties lawyers have attacked this clause on the grounds that it can appear to require a defendant to prove his or her innocence rather than the Crown proving guilt.

Directing an unlawful organisation: Under the new measures, it would be easier to prove membership (see right to silence above) of banned organisatioos which has sometimes been a problem for the authorities in this country. This measure could be directed at individuals who admit membership of political groups who deny links with associated paramilitary groups.

Possessing items for purposes connected with firearms and explosives: This is similar to the sections of the PTA and Criminal Justice and Public Order Act here, which makes it an offence to be in possession of "articles for suspected terrorist purposes" and also to "unlawfully collect information which might be useful to terrorists."

Existing criminal laws in the Irish republic already allow confiscation of property and land used in the commission of crime. Yesterday Mr Ahern pointed out that this law can he used against people suspected of using land or property for terrorist-related activities. This could be interpreted to mean anything from holding meetings to bomh-making.

Yesterday the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, said that the changes in the Irish law would now be examined and possibly adopted in the UK.

"It is at present difficult to secure convictions for the offence of membership of a proscribed organisation, such as the Real IRA which has admitted to Saturday's bombing. I am therefore considering changes similar to those which the Irish government have announced to make it easier to prove membership."

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Despite world embargo against Tripoli, the Foreign Office saw nothing wrong in secret negotiations on future £6 billion deal with Gadafy regime

David Gow and Richard Norton-Taylor report

BAe chairman Richard Evans with an Airbus – one of the aircraft said to be the subject of talks over a possible Libyan deal PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

BAe admits to Libya talks

BRITISH Aerospace, the country's biggest defence contractor, admitted yesterday that it held secret talks with an intermediary acting for Libya about the prospect of supplying aircraft and other equipment to Colonel Gadafy's regime.

Senior BAe executives are understood to have taken part in the discussions, despite the international trade embargo imposed on Libya by the United Nations after two Libyan intelligence agents were implicated in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing in which 270 died on a Pan-Am jumbo jet over Scotland.

But BAe denies it intended to carry out any sales while sanctions were in force.

The conversations about a deal are reported to have included discreet meetings in Switzerland and in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The British government made clear yesterday that it was aware of the contacts.

Reports that BAe has been engaged in secret negotiations for a possible £6 billion deal with Libya appeared in yesterday's Express newspaper. It said it had obtained documents claiming the company had received "encouragement" from the Government for a "master project" including the supply of more than 30 Airbus aircraft and building of new airports.

One document, dated June 15 this year, alleges that Sir Richard Evans, the company's chairman, "had in the last few weeks a number of meetings on the subject with political leaders, including the top". BAe is also alleged to have discussed the possibility of supplying military aircraft to Libya.

In a short statement issued yesterday, the company said: "BAe Consultancy Services did respond to requests by an intermediary for the Libyans about the possibilities which might exist on the reconstruction of civil aviation in that country, if and when the embargo was lifted."

It added: "The nature of this response was about possible further talks rather than any detailed discussions. British Aerospace is fully aware that no business discussions are possible with Libya until the United Nations embargo is lifted."

BAe declined to respond to further questions.

The Foreign Office yesterday confirmed it had a meeting with BAe in April at the company's request, but denied it encouraged BAe to go ahead with any deal.

A spokesman said: "On the information available to us, BAe have not breached the sanctions", which contained no prohibition on talking about post-embargo trade.

According to documents obtained by the Express, the prospect of a deal after sanctions end was first mooted at a meeting in a Geneva hotel in June last year between John Flinton, managing director of British Aerospace Consultancy Services, and a middleman for the Libyans.

Mr Flinton, who is alleged to have said the company had received "encouragement" from the Government, outlined plans for a "Libyan master project". It would involve French, German, and Italian partners, but BAe would be in the lead. The proposal was for the sale of 30 or more Airbuses, the supply of spares, maintenance, training of pilots and mechanics, the modernisation of existing airports and construction of new ones, and a strategy to develop tourism. Payment would be in crude oil.

But the Toulouse-based Airbus consortium, in which BAe holds a 20 per cent stake, said it had played no part in any secret talks and respected the embargo with Libya.

Even so, shares in BAe, which had fallen sharply in recent days on fears of the profitability of its civil aerospace division, bounced back on news of the Libyan talks. They rose 16p to close at 421p, a rise of nearly 4 per cent.

On the military side, BAe needs to promote sales of the Tornado jet fighter's successor, Eurofighter, especially as low oil prices could reduce Saudi Arabia's defence purchases. Libya is seen in some quarters as a potential market. A company memo to the Libyans allegedly says: "BAe have already supplied to you material on their military programmes and will also wish to discuss this aspect with you, probably by a separate mission."

The middleman was reported to have met Col Gadafy's cousin, Ahmed Gadaf al-Daim, later in Cairo.

After Mr Flinton visited Tripoli in March this year, Peter McDonald, business director responsible for integrated programmes at BAe Systems and Services, is reported to have written to Captain Mohammed Ipsiem, chairman of Libyan Arab Airlines.

"British Aerospace wishes to reconfirm its desire to support you in developing your civil aviation infrastructure as soon as political circumstances allow," he said.

Last night, John Maples, Tory defence spokesman, said he was extremely surprised by BAe's discussions and demanded clarifications from the Foreign Office — in particular about what he called the "horrifying" suggestion that the company had held out the prospect of military sales to Libya.

Soar points

☐ Evolved from British pioneers such as de Havilland, Hawker, Sopwith and Vickers and fully privatised in 1985. Sold Rover Group to Germany's BMW in February 1994 to concentrate on defence and aerospace.

☐ Europe's largest and most profitable defence manufacturer. Global sales in 1997 of £8.55 billion (of which defence accounted for £6.4 billion) and pre-tax profits of £553 million.

☐ Under Sir Richard (Dick) Evans, now chairman, BAe is leading the government-sponsored drive to consolidate Europe's defence industry into one company, Euroco. Has 20 per cent of Airbus, the civil jet aircraft maker.

☐ Owns UK small-arms manufacturer Royal Ordnance and German gunmakers Heckler & Koch.

☐ Prime contractor for the UK-Saudi arms deal Al Yamamah, signed by Margaret Thatcher, which nets BAe £2 billion a year and accounts for some 60 per cent of UK defence exports. Has 10 per cent stake in Lockheed Martin's new Joint Strike Fighter.

☐ Employs 43,400, of whom 33,500 are in defence, including 3,000 in Saudi Arabia, and 9,400 in commercial aerospace.

Russia is forced into climbdown over debts

Alex Brummer, Jill Treanor and James Meek in Moscow

THE Russian government was yesterday forced to climb down from its declared moratorium on repaying its $40 billion debts after Western bankers threatened to cut it off from global capital markets.

Excluding Russia from external finance would effectively bring the economic process in the country to grinding halt.

The authorities in Moscow were last night locked in talks with two of the biggest players in the international debt market, the New York bankers J P Morgan and Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest lender, which have demanded a change in the terms of the moratorium.

The most vocal European critic of Russia's actions, the investment bankers Credit Suisse First Boston, described the Russian government's original plan as a "gross violation" of pledges to protect foreign investors which would damage future prospects of raising new money.

In Washington, the Institute of International Finance, which represents 245 of the world's top financial institutions, protested that Russia had declared a "unilateral moratorium" which was against the interests of all the parties involved.

The group's managing director, Charles Dallara, said that Russia's actions were "highly regrettable" and that it had a duty to hold "immediate discussions with creditors". He said there could be no restoration of financial order in Russia until steps were taken to prevent capital outflows running at $2.5 billion to $3 billion a month.

In its precipitate declaration on Monday, the Russian government devalued the rouble and placed a 90-day moratorium on a portion of Russian banks' and companies' international loan payments. The declaration, if it is carried out, could mean heavy losses for Western banks from Frankfurt to New York.

In particular, Western bankers are furious that foreign holders of Russian bonds will get second-class treatment under the plans proposed by the Russian central bank.

Yesterday, Russia's prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, compounded the bankers' worries when he argued that paying workers' wages must take priority over repaying the country's debt.

The urgent negotiations between the Russian authorities and J P Morgan and Deutsche Bank will take place in Moscow against a deadline of next Monday for a solution. Failure to patch up their differences will lead to a further collapse in the Russian markets and the possibility of long-term financial isolation for Moscow — which could make Boris Yeltsin's position as a reforming leader untenable.

The goal of the Russia government has been to swap high-yielding short-term debts for longer-term paper which puts less burden on its exchequer. The Russians have estimated that the move will save them up to $17.1 billion this year alone.

Striking a patriotic stance yesterday, Mr Kiriyenko, in an attempt to fend off the circling sharks of Russia's political and business elite, spoke in detail for the first time about the reasons behind the decision to devalue the rouble and stage a partial debt default.

He admitted that the government had effectively declared itself bankrupt and was no longer capable of servicing its debts.

"Either we continue to service the state debt, taking up 'all our funds', not paying wages, not paying pensions, not paying subsidies, or we are obliged to take a very unpleasant, yet necessary decision," he said.

The IIF emphasised that Russia's problems with Western banks would have been less severe had it come clean on its problems and sought to arrange a formal process for working out the country's debt difficulties, a process followed in Korea last year.

Financial experts said last night that there might be a way out of the impasse if the authorities came up with a pragmatic solution.

Pinch draws blood, page 6; City Notebook, page 12

ITV calls Vanessa's £2m bluff

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

VANESSA Feltz has been unceremoniously dumped from her ITV daytime talk show after demanding a pay deal believed to be worth £2 million.

Ms Feltz is understood to have demanded the two-year deal from Anglia Television, producers of her show, Vanessa.

Well-placed sources claim that as a further sweetener she asked to present another 60 prime-time programmes on ITV as part of a deal to tie her to her daily morning programme until 2001.

ITV felt enough was enough, and yesterday called her bluff. The surprise announcement from Anglia and its sister company, United Productions, said: "The producers of Vanessa today announced that they have rejected financial demands from the presenter of the show, Vanessa Feltz."

Vanessa Feltz: asked for more prime-time slots

An insider at United said: "We bent over backwards to keep Vanessa. We are not in the business of dismissing demands out of hand, but it became completely unrealistic."

Vanessa transferred successfully from three afternoons a week to every morning earlier this year in a blaze of publicity. Replacing The Time ... The Place, the daily debate show went head to head with BBC1's Kilroy and won around 1.8 million viewers a day.

The decision follows last month's furore when the Broadcasting Standards Commission described the TV confessional as the modern day equivalent of "the stocks". ITV's willingness to let Vanessa go may reflect an awareness that the network is pushing its luck with the controversial Jerry Springer Show running every lunchtime and Vanessa every morning.

Ms Feltz has had some tempestuous relationships with the producers of her shows. Last year, when she was a presenter of Channel 4's Big Breakfast, she admitted tipping a plate of baked beans over the head of the show's editor, after rumours that she was to be dropped from the programme.

Yesterday, ITV and Anglia were keeping quiet about future plans. The Vanessa show is at present on a summer break and was due to return in September, although that seems unlikely given yesterday's announcement.

Malcolm Allsop, director of programmes at Anglia Television, implied that Ms Feltz was not irreplaceable, saying: "We are very excited about a number of options."

Ms Feltz is on holiday, but her solicitor, Graham Shear, contradicted ITV's claims. "This is not and never has been about money. The figure quoted has been vastly inflated."

He added: "This is entirely about Vanessa's career development."

From the egocentric to the erotic

Review

Andrew Clements

BBC Symphony Orchestra/ Oliver Knussen
Royal Albert Hall/Radio 3

BEGINNING a concert with Messiaen and ending it with Scriabin is a bit like starting a meal with some lavishly layered terrine and ending it with a creamy gateau: there's a real danger of acute indigestion afterwards.

But Oliver Knussen's programme last night was so artfully balanced and so perceptively presented that the richness of the ingredients never became a problem.

Quite the contrary, for though there might seem to be precious few connections between the rabidly egocentric Russian mystic and the French Roman Catholic, and the erotic charge that powers Scriabin's Poem of Ecstasy may be light years away from the devotional fervour that pervades Messiaen's L'Ascension, each composer was intent on expressing his own version of the inexpressible and willing to resort to every harmonic device in his vocabulary to do it, and the results are sometimes remarkably similar.

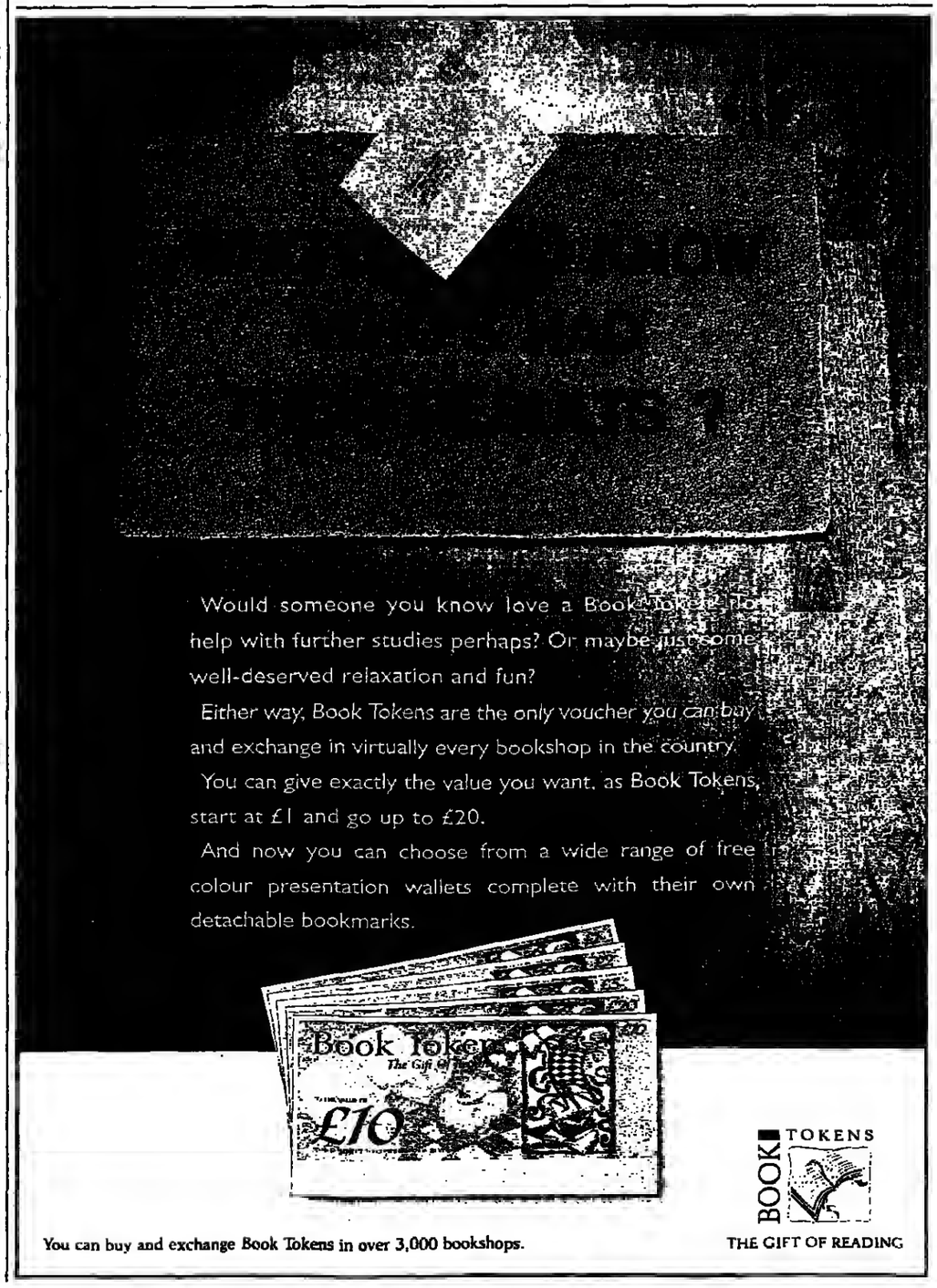
L'Ascension is more often heard these days in the later version that Messiaen made for organ; it has become a bit of a virility test for any church organist eager to show that his musical horizons can extend beyond Widor's Toccata. But the 1932 orchestral score shows much more clearly where Messiaen's music had come from and where in a few years time it would be heading, from the gentle echoes of Debussy that Knussen found in the second movement, to the unbuttoned rhythmic energy of the third, which prefigures the explosions of the Turangalila Symphony, Messiaen's celebration of erotic love, 15 years later.

That is the kind of fleshly intensity that Scriabin, for all his attempt to disguise his true purpose with philosophical baggage, was evoking; but once again it was the way in which Knussen placed the piece in its historical context that made it so special.

The quick adrenalin fix that comes with any first-rate performance of the Poem was certainly administered — superb playing from the BBC Symphony, with the principal trumpet relishing his spotlit role — but the pointing up of the connections with Rimsky Korsakov, and Stravinsky especially, made Scriabin seem much less like a musical oddball and much more like a composer who chose to lead the Russian tradition along a line of development all his own. To cleanse the palate between these main courses there were London premieres from two British composers. Sometime Voices by George Benjamin (a Messiaen pupil himself) is a setting for baritone (David Wilson-Johnson) and chorus (the BBC Singers) of Caliban's speech from The Tempest, conjuring up the twanging instruments of Prospero's island in a slightly short-winded way.

Robin Holloway's Hymn To Senses (conducted by Stephen Cleobury) is much less economical, setting poems by John Fuller, depicting each of the five senses in turn yet never really establishing its own raison d'etre.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.



A level examiners welcome return to traditional subjects but teachers call for broader sixth form curriculum to reflect society's needs

Maths and science enjoy revival

A level results for England, Wales and N. Ireland

This table shows this year's provisional A-level results for UK candidates. The special modes may create slight variations in the pass rates. The figures in brackets are the final 1997 results. It shows the number of entries in each subject, and the percentage awarded each grade.

Subject	A		B		C		D		E		Fail		Number who sat	
* Art and Design	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biology	15.9	14.9	19.2	19.6	19.2	19.2	17.5	17.7	14.0	14.7	14.1	13.9	59457	58705
Business Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chemistry	23.0	21.4	21.2	21.6	18.8	18.3	14.7	14.8	11.1	12.0	11.4	11.9	43030	42262
* Classical subjects	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Communication Studies	12.2	12.6	19.1	19.8	16.4	17.8	11.8	12	14.7	14.8	20.4	19.5	4911	3164
Computing	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Economics	19.0	16.6	18.1	17.3	19.2	18.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.7	13.4	14.9	15.8	[illegible]	20762
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Expressive Arts	10.8	10.9	16.5	16.2	[illegible]	24.0	22.9	21.5	13.3	15.7	11.8	12.3	1493	[illegible]
French	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
General Studies	13.0	13.6	14.6	15.4	20.3	18.8	19.5	18.8	16.2	16.8	[illegible]	14.4	50570	49165
Geography	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
German	26.7	24.4	19.1	19.8	19.8	18.5	13.4	16.9	10.8	12.0	[illegible]	11.2	[illegible]	[illegible]
History	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Home Economics	10.4	9.7	17.2	17.5	22.1	21.7	21.4	[illegible]	14.8	15.7	14.9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Law	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Maths	28.0	27.6	19.1	20.9	16.7	17.3	[illegible]	14.1	10.6	10.4	11.7	[illegible]	28854	[illegible]
* Media/Film/TV Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Music	19.5	19.5	20.5	20.8	23.8	23.9	14.0	13.7	10.8	10.8	4.7	[illegible]	7012	[illegible]
△ Other Modern Languages	32.8	30.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Physics	22.4	21.8	20.8	21.5	18.8	18.4	15.8	15.5	11.2	11.5	11.6	[illegible]	34244	[illegible]
Political Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Psychology	11.1	10.9	19.7	17.4	[illegible]	18.4	13.8	[illegible]	14.3	14.5	13.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Religious Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
○ Science	11.7	11.3	16.1	15.7	20.8	20.1	23.1	[illegible]	18.5	17.0	11.7	13.6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sociology	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish	24.8	25.0	22.6	22.3	20.0	18.8	[illegible]	15.9	9.8	9.2	7.8	8.4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sport/PE Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
* Technology subjects	12.2	12.9	13.9	15.1	23.4	24.3	22.8	22.7	16.3	14.7	[illegible]	10.3	13316	[illegible]
Welsh	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
All Other Subjects	13.4	13.7	17.6	17.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	16.5	16.7	14.2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8703	8789
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* These titles cover a range of related subjects △ Other Modern Languages include all languages except French, German, Russian and Welsh. ○ Science includes all science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE exam boards yesterday welcomed a renewal of interest among sixth formers in taking maths and science at A level after fears that students were being lured into softer subjects, leaving industry and the teaching profession short of recruits with the necessary intellectual skills.

But the A level results being distributed today to candidates at schools and colleges in England and Wales show a fall in numbers passing in English and foreign languages, reflecting a continuing switch towards newer subjects such as business studies, technology, computing and psychology.

Ron McLone, convenor of the examining boards' joint forum, said there was a 2.7 per cent increase in the number of A level papers taken this year. This was slightly below the 3.5 per cent increase in the population of 18-year-olds, and the difference may have been caused by more candidates switching to vocational qualifications.

He said the rise in numbers taking science subjects was particularly welcome, with entries for physics and biology up 3 per cent, maths up 2.4 per cent and chemistry up 1.8 per cent.

The Confederation of British Industry said: "We welcome the halt in the decline of people passing science-related subjects and we look forward to seeing grade improvements. We must continue to raise expectations of what individuals can achieve so that the UK workforce has sufficient skills to maintain international competitiveness."

But Alan Smithers, director of the centre for education and employment research at Liverpool university, said the growth in science entries was failing to keep pace with rising numbers of 18-year-olds and could not be regarded as a signal that emphasis on the subject in the national curriculum was having a dramatic effect.

According to statistics released by the joint forum, the most popular A level subject continued to be English. Although entries fell by 1 per cent, it was taken by 94,099 candidates — nearly a third of this year's total. There were 70,554 candidates for maths and 80,570 for general studies.

The fastest growing subjects were computing (up 22.2 per cent to 14,643), sports studies (up 17.5 per cent to 14,628), media/film/TV studies (up 17 per cent to 13,545) and business studies (up 10.6 per cent to 37,008). There was a drop in numbers taking economics (down 10.1 per cent), French (8.7 per cent), sociology (7.4 per cent) and history (5.2 per cent).

> Students taking modular courses were more likely to pass, but less likely to get an A. Modular exams helped candidates gauge how they were doing, but some might find it harder to make the top grades at first

Candidates were most likely to get an A grade in maths, German and other modern languages. They were least likely to get top marks in business studies, computing and sports studies.

The subjects with the highest failure rates were computing, law and sociology. The candidates least likely to fail were those taking art and design, Welsh and other modern languages.

Dr McLone said the traditional academic subjects remained popular because schools and colleges wanted to take advantage of their teaching strengths, but the growth of newer subjects such as computing reflected the changing needs of society at large.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the figures showed there was an urgent need to change an "excessively narrow" sixth form curriculum. "The explosive growth of general studies ... demonstrates that schools are crying out for a broader curriculum," he said.

A further fall this year in numbers taking AS levels — covering a smaller syllabus and given half the points score of an A level — showed their failure to broaden sixth form education, he said. Candidates sat 66,585 AS level papers this year, with a pass rate of 69.6 per cent.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, warned that the popularity of traditional subjects waned after the candidates left school, when many opted for vocational courses at university. "If students do not pursue maths and English as degree subjects, will there be enough teachers in the future to implement the Government's numeracy and literacy strategies?" he asked.

George Turnbull, spokesman for the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance, largest of the examining boards, said half the A level candidates took modular courses on which they were tested periodically, but all candidates had to take a final exam. Marks for course work were usually limited to 20 per cent.

Students taking modular courses were more likely to pass, but less likely to get an A. Modular exams helped candidates gauge how they were doing, but some might find it harder to make the top grades at first. There was no difference in the rigour of modular exams, he said.

Butcher and officials censured over E. coli

James Meikle

BRITAIN'S most serious food poisoning outbreak, which killed 21 elderly people and affected hundreds of other people, may have been made worse by the dishonesty of the butcher involved and the incompetence of environmental health officers, a fatal accident inquiry reported yesterday.

Sheriff Principal Graham Cox found that butcher John Barr had concealed the full extent of his business from North Lanarkshire council officials, and that six lives might have been saved if he had been more honest about the supply of cold meats.

He criticised training and supervision of staff at Mr Barr's business in Wishaw, its failure to use proper temperature probes while cooking raw meat, the absence of cleaning schedules to reduce the risk of contamination, and failure to separate processes, knives and equipment for raw and cooked meat. Mr Barr had paid only lip service to officials.

The E. coli 0157 outbreak, which began in November 1996 through the infection of stew and gravy served at a church lunch for pensioners, raged for months and prompted a programme of improved hygiene from farmyard to food outlets after a separate investigation into E. coli poisoning headed by Hugh Pennington, professor of bacteriology at the University of Aberdeen.

The Government will examine the sheriff's findings to determine whether further action is needed. His report, after a 37-day hearing this year in Motherwell, said the 21 had died after an "undignified and often painful illness".

Referring to the Pennington report recommendation that butchers who also cook should be registered, it said the Government might have to go further and ban such cooking unless it took place on premises separate from butchers' shops and with different staff and equipment.

Officials of North Lanarkshire council had shown a "total lack of initiative".

Mr Barr's "lack of frankness" and deception about the nature of his business and supplies to other shops and wholesalers before the outbreak had led officials to exempt him from registration and other rules for the supply of cooked meat. It was not possible to say the outbreak would have been avoided if Mr Barr had registered — but "it might have been".

The connection between the church lunch and Mr Barr's business had taken five days to establish, but extra hours could have been saved in stopping sales. Residents at a nursing home and another victim might not have died.

A criminal prosecution against Mr Barr was thrown out last year because of lack of corroborative evidence, but his company was later fined £2,250 for breaching food safety laws.

His lawyer said Mr Barr had no comment, but relatives of victim Alex Gardiner said through their lawyer: "As has been demonstrated here, no amount of legislation or regulation is of use unless it is implemented properly and acted upon by all parties whom it affects."

The council said measures taken in the past 18 months included extra training for food safety inspectors and courses for high risk businesses.

The Commons select committee on agriculture has criticised some environmental health officers across the country for "consistently failing" to enforce hygiene rules.

Richard North, a food safety specialist, said there should be a government inquiry into hygiene controls. "The system is failing ... So many of these people — drawing, I might add, quite large salaries for protecting the public — are not part of the solution, they are part of the problem."

John Barr ... 'paid only lip service to officials'

Parents of murdered boy plead for help

Sarah Hall

ON the edge of Happisburgh churchyard, on the desolate north-east coast of Norfolk, one tiny grave draws the eye.

Boasting no tombstone, it breaks the seemingly-unending expanse of sea and sky with its blaze of petunias and geraniums. A plastic model motorbike rests beneath the blooms. A wooden cross states: "Loving memories of Thomas Nigel Marshall."

A year ago tomorrow, Thomas, a polite and streetwise 12-year-old, set off on his bike from his 18th-century home in the village to see a friend in Eccles-on-Sea, two miles away.

He never returned and — 24 hours later — a situation initially dismissed by police as a case of a child playing hookey, had become a murder investigation.

Thomas Marshall: body found dumped in a layby

At 1pm, on August 22, his reddish-pink bike was found dumped on a local rubbish tip, three miles from the village. Five hours later, his fully-clothed body was found 50 miles in the opposite direction, at Roundham Heath in a secluded layby off the A11, frequented by truckers and at night those hunting sexual encounters.

One year on, Norfolk police are renewing their appeals for information as they struggle with a case which has prompted 14,000 lines of inquiry — but no enduring leads. DCI Bill Gorham, the officer heading the inquiry since January, insists he is optimistic a killer will be found and points to the 4,000 lines yet to be pursued.

In Happisburgh, where the 700-strong community will pray for Thomas this Saturday, villagers are angered by the police's belief that the killer is among them and are battling against it. "Everyone is convinced it was an outsider," says Sue Stockton, aged 49, the landlady of the Hill House pub. "We know the local men who were arrested and then released and no-one in the village thinks it could be them. The police seem to think they know who did it but they can't prove it — and local opinion is they are clutching at straws."

With the first anniversary of their own child's death looming, the Marshalls have briefly left the village.

John and Carol Marshall yesterday when they appealed for information about the murder last August PHOTOGRAPH: JASON BYE

Gascoigne's friend died in night of alcohol poisoning

Nick Hopkins

A FRIEND of Paul Gascoigne died of acute alcohol poisoning after a night out with the footballer, an inquest heard yesterday.

David Cheek, aged 43, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, mixed five pints of lager with shots of grappa when he had dinner with Mr Gascoigne at an Italian restaurant in Middlesbrough last Thursday. With them was Mr Cheek's cousin, Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, who is the footballer's best friend, and other mutual friends.

The party returned to a nearby hotel where Mr Gascoigne has been living since he was transferred from Glasgow Rangers FC to Middlesbrough FC. Mr Cheek went to bed early and was "asleep and snoring" fully clothed when Mr Gardner joined him in the room they were sharing.

But when Mr Gardner woke at 5am and told Mr Cheek to undress, he realised his cousin was seriously ill.

"I went to wake him but he was not breathing," Mr Gardner told the hearing at South Tyneside. "I then raised the alarm."

Paramedics could not revive Mr Cheek and he was pronounced dead at Queen Elizabeth hospital. A post mortem proved inconclusive, but samples taken for toxicology tests showed Mr Cheek had "very high levels of alcohol present in the blood".

Terence Carney, Gateshead and South Tyneside deputy coroner, told Mr Cheek's family: "David had at times been in the practice of taking a substantial amount of drink. People reach a level of tolerance where it loses its effect.

"Alcohol is a disinhibitor and being such ... people at times take too much without realising they are doing so. It's my judgment that this was the tragic set of circumstances which surrounded David's death."

Mr Carney said Mr Cheek died of acute alcoholic intoxication and recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Sausages R Us drives toy chain to summon legal reinforcements

David Ward

A MIGHTY toy chain has brought the might of the law crashing down on a one-woman butcher's business, fearing that customers might mistake a Cumberland banger for a Teletubby.

Theresa Heward, owner of Sausages R Us in Wallasey, Merseyside, has been ordered by solicitors for the US-based retailer Toys 'R' Us to change the name of her shop, which opened three months ago.

The lawyers argued that the name might confuse customers, a view Mrs Heward called ludicrous. "We sell meat, not toys," she said. Her customers have renamed the offended company Bullies R Us.

"When I started the business, I just wanted a name that conveyed the idea that we make sausages," said Mrs Heward. "I came up with Sausages R Us, but it's not a big, colourful R and it's not back to front. And there aren't any apostrophes."

She marketed 20 kinds of sausage made from pork, lamb and chicken. There were booming sales for her chilli banger, a favourite at local barbecues. Then the letter arrived on the mat of Sausages R Us. "I was quite shocked," said Mrs Heward. "The company didn't tell me how they had heard of me; they just said that it had come to light that I was trading under the name. They turned my world upside down."

The lawyers said: "It is highly likely that our clients' success is the reason why you have thought it worthwhile to use a mark which incorporates the R Us designation and which is otherwise confusingly similar to our clients' mark. Our clients are not prepared to let such a use go unopposed."

Mrs Heward sent a letter to the lawyers, "but they have not had the decency to reply to me," she said. "So I had to employ a solicitor to see if he could get a reply. But as yet we haven't heard anything."

Toys 'R' Us refused to comment.

Pop star banned for 111mph dash after 'nightmare' call

Sarah Hall

THE lead singer of Jamiroquai raced at 111mph down a motorway after hearing that a woman he claimed had "made his life a nightmare" and threatened to set fire to his house was at his £1.6 million home, a court heard yesterday.

Jay Kay, aged 28, frontman of the jazz-funk group, increased his speed in his £200,000 Ferrari F40 after being warned that the woman had returned to Hornsden Manor, his 72 acre estate near Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire, despite being arrested there hours earlier.

Yesterday Kay was banned from driving for 42 days, and fined £540 with £35 costs.

Magistrates at Beaconsfield heard that the singer had been driving towards London on the M40 near High Wycombe on May 30, when he was told the woman had returned.

"Suppose I want to fill my (now) lead-free car with petrol. Do I call in at the nearest Shell station? Of course not: Nigeria."
Ethical consumption

G2 page 10

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Four die as canal boat sinks

Disabled trippers trapped after narrowboat is snagged in lock

Martin Wainwright

FOUR disabled passengers on a daytrip drowned yesterday when their canal boat snagged on part of a lock and sank within minutes.

The three men and a woman with learning difficulties had "no chance", according to witnesses of the disaster on a placid stretch of the Leeds-Liverpool waterway at Gargrave in the Yorkshire Dales.

Shepherded into Stegneck Lock — one of a gentle flight often used to train narrowboat-hirers on lock mechanisms — the boat is thought to have caught its bow and tipped backwards, taking inflooda of water at the stern.

Four passengers on the boat escaped, along with a party on a second barge which was negotiating the lock at the same time.

British Waterways staff, who raised the alarm, said heroic attempts had been made by passengers to rescue the four victims. One young man jumped into the water to try to release a passenger trapped inside the narrowboat.

Terry Glover of North Yorkshire fire service, which mobilised its waterborne rescue unit, said three casualties were being treated on top of the boat when the team arrived, but the other was trapped underwater.

The flooded boat was finally reached by divers and fire officers wearing breathing apparatus before the lock and stretch of canal below it were drained. A doctor certified the victims dead after medical staff had attempted to revive them for 45 minutes.

The narrowboat remained tilted on the stone floor of the lock last night, with water seeping from the closed wooden gates and debris, including cushions, kitchenware and booklets, scattered on the canal bed.

North Yorkshire police said that the victims and their day centre in Cumbria which organised the trip would be named today, when all relatives had been contacted.

Bill Schiegel, British Waterways North West technical director, went to the lock last night as health and safety staff began an inquiry into how the exceptionally good safety record of Britain's canals had been so abruptly marred.

The tragedy is the worst on the 127-mile canal since wartime bombing. "We want to know what has happened, but we would be very surprised if there was anything about the lock which was unacceptable," said a British Waterways spokesman.

Inquiries are expected to focus initially on the boat's manoeuvring inside Stegneck, which regularly takes two boats at a time on a busy stretch, popular for day trips from Skipton.

Both boats will be craned from the lock, probably today, and statements will be taken from survivors, who are receiving counselling.

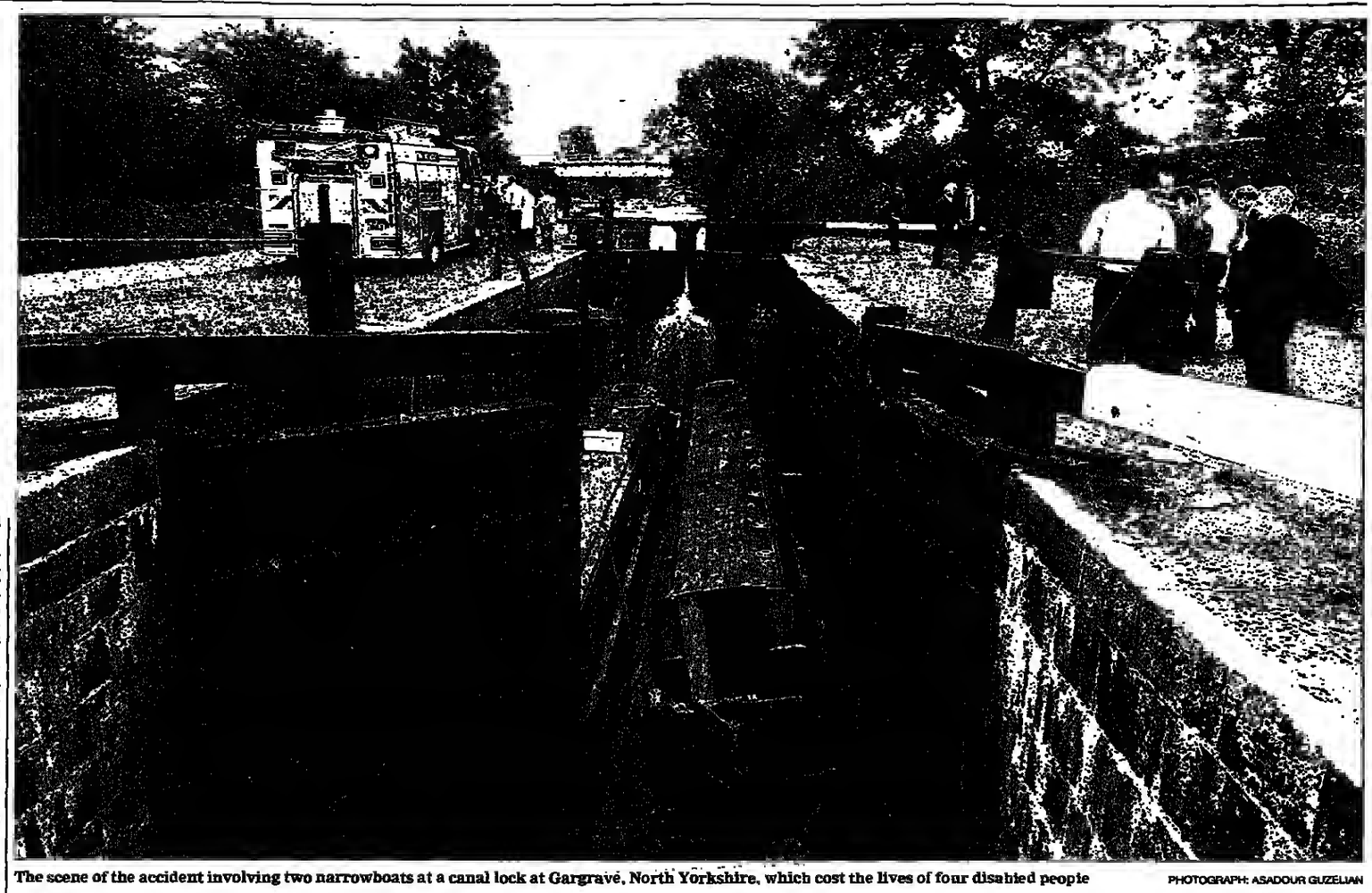
The boats were being locked downstream when the accident happened, according to witnesses. The day centre party's barge got "caught" as the water in the lock fell.

This can happen — although very rarely — by snagging on part of the gates, sluices or stonework, or if ropes used to hold the boat in a safe position as it descends are mishandled. The BW spokesman said: "No matter how much instruction you give to people, you can't prepare for something like this."

Ambulance crews were sent from Skipton, Keighley and Settle after the emergency call, along with a specialist team from Airedale general hospital.

The narrowboat was hired from Silsden Boats, near Keighley, where there was no answer to phone calls last night.

Accident investigators will also consider whether the two boats had become fouled, with one inadvertently forcing the other on to a snag.



The scene of the accident involving two narrowboats at a canal lock at Gargrave, North Yorkshire, which cost the lives of four disabled people PHOTOGRAPH: ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Free travel on Chiltern as regulator gets tough

David Gow
Industrial Editor

THE Government's stern response to deteriorating services on privatised railways paid off yesterday for passengers of Chiltern Railways, who are to get free travel and bigger refunds as compensation for persistent cancellations.

As a £2.5 million agreed package of benefits for travellers on Chiltern was unveiled, John O'Brien, rail franchising director, issued a fresh warning to the country's 25 train operators that he would remove their lucrative franchises if standards did not improve.

Season ticket holders on Chiltern will get a week's free travel. Passengers subject to more than an hour's delay will get a full refund of their single fare, and those delayed by over 30 minutes will get half of it back under the package.

Chiltern — which runs lines from London's Marylebone to Birmingham, Banbury and Aylesbury — has also agreed to increase security and refurbish toilets at bigger stations.

It is the first time Mr O'Brien, the head of Opraf, has used new powers given to him by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to benefit passengers.

Other companies whose trains are regularly cancelled or severely delayed can expect similar ultimatums in the next few weeks. "I would expect Chiltern to deliver a better service from Monday," Mr O'Brien said.

Last week an Opraf survey showed growing consumer dissatisfaction with falling standards of service on the privatised rail network, and brought a furious reaction from Mr Prescott, who had increased Mr O'Brien's powers after last year's South West Trains debacle. SWT, owned by Stagecoach, had cancelled hundreds of trains.

> 'Chiltern have done a lot of innovative things, but unfortunately they are not living up to commitments'

Ironically, Chiltern, owned by M40 Trains, a management and employee buy-out, is acknowledged by Mr O'Brien to have done much work to improve the railway.

"They have agreed to double the track on part of their route, they were the first to order new trains and they are being delivered now and they have done a lot of other innovative things, he said. "But unfortunately the quality of service has slipped, and as far as I'm concerned they are not living up to their commitments."

Chiltern's compensation for passengers has been triggered because it has cancelled more than 1 per cent of trains in each of four four-week operating periods — and is in breach of commitments again this month.

Other operators carry out far more extensive cancellations, but Chiltern inherited one of the best services provided by British Rail so its performance targets are tougher.

Under the package it has agreed to recruit more drivers, improve rolling stock and maintain spare trains for emergency use in peak periods.

Adrian Shooter, Chiltern's managing director, said that since winning the franchise in July 1996 the company had increased its fleet by 25 per cent, run a third more services, employed 20 per cent more staff and carried far more passengers.

Despite this, he admitted that the recent performance record had been unacceptable.

The regulator estimates that the benefits package unveiled yesterday will cost Chiltern £2.5 million between now and the end of its franchise in July 2003.

However, the company faces further penalties, including stiff fines, if it is found to be in further breach of its franchise within the next three years.

Mr O'Brien said: "I expect the operators to deliver on their commitments. If they don't, I will have no hesitation in using all the powers at my disposal to ensure that the service they have contracted to supply is restored very quickly.

"If they don't, they can look forward to enforcement which could ultimately lead to the loss of the franchise."

Mr Prescott, who wants his proposed strategic rail authority to have tougher powers to enforce better standards of service, let it be known last night that the train operators would not be allowed to get away with poor performance.

He is encouraging the franchising director to use his new powers rather than threatening fines if services do not improve within, say, 28 days.

Will row leads to inquiry into 20 deaths

Verity Hogg

POLICE are investigating the deaths of 20 patients of a doctor following the exhumation of the body of a former mayoress of Hyde, Greater Manchester.

Detectives were called in after relatives of Kathleen Grundy, who was 81, discovered that she had cut them out of her recently-changed will.

Greater Manchester police confirmed last night all 20 were former patients of Harold Shipman, aged 52, a doctor for 28 years who runs a local practice.

Det Supt Bernard Postles, heading the inquiry, said: "I can confirm that we are looking into the circumstances of Mrs Grundy's death. We are also looking into 19 other patients' deaths as a matter of course in what is a full and thorough investigation. We are doing that in full co-operation with the coroner.

"I would like to stress that people should not panic about our investigation."

Mrs Grundy, a widow for 30 years, had lived in the Gee Cross area all her life and had been an active worker for local organisations. Her body was found at her home.

Dr Shipman gave the cause of Mrs Grundy's death as old age and signed her death certificate. A post mortem was held after the body was exhumed following a request to the coroner.

Detectives have spoken to Mrs Grundy's friends and plan to interview Dr Shipman when the results of forensic tests are known, possibly at the end of this month. They stressed there was nothing suspicious about the deaths.

Dr Shipman declined to comment, referring inquiries to the Medical Defence Union. A spokesman said: "Because of Dr Shipman's duty of confidentiality, he cannot discuss the treatment of any of the patients."

Sandwich choice reveals upper crust

John Ezard

SOCIAL habits change but their stigma remains the same. Buying a cheap cheese and onion sandwich at Tesco brands you a male manual worker as surely as smoking a roll-up between thumb and forefinger once did.

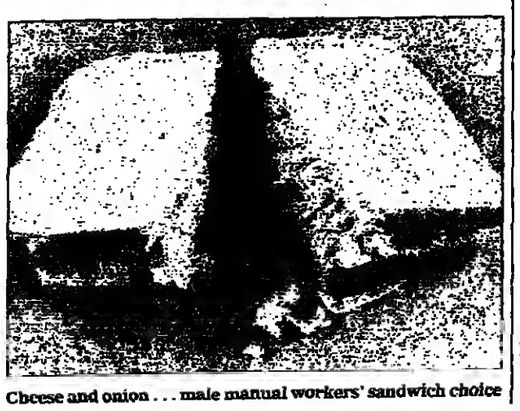
If you want to at least look as if you're getting ahead, ask for a top-of-the range designer snack. This is part of the new pecking order of workplace life, according to market research issued yesterday by the store chain.

Setting out to define and target its lunch customers more precisely, it found that well-paid executives "invariably" insist on designer sandwiches made from ciabatta and focaccia with sun-dried tomatoes, rather than the ordinary sliced white loaf.

The survey is partly a bit of fun. However, Tesco found enough links between occupation and food choice to draw lessons about behaviour. Busy manual workers tend to grab a sandwich that looks affordable, simple and quick to eat.

Salespeople and middle-ranking executives are apt to go for meaty triple-deckers. Upwardly mobile women, aged 25-40, are liable to choose low-calorie sandwiches costing around £1.49. Those paying up to £2.49 a round — and more if their food is bought at more upmarket counters than Tesco — is the high-powered executive.

Sharry Walker, Tesco's sandwich buyer, said: "Their sandwiches have to make the right statement about them. They have to say, 'The person eating this sandwich is very important, so only the best will do'."



Cheese and onion . . . male manual workers' sandwich choice

Who eats what

Male manual worker

Cheese & onion, 95p
Ploughman's, £1.15
Egg mayonnaise, 89p

Female manual worker

Prawn mayo £1.19
Healthy Eating ham & mustard 99p

Salesman and middle-rank

Exotic chicken triple pack £1.99
Super deep-fill bacon, lettuce, tomato £1.99
Super deep-fill ploughman's £1.79

Upwardly mobile male

Well-filled smoked salmon
Prime Scots beef with horseradish mayonnaise (both £1.99)

Upwardly mobile woman executives

Szechuan or Italian chicken (Healthy Eating)
Chargrilled mushroom with ricotta & horseradish spread

Man or woman, high-powered

Tortilla wraps (all £1.99) with: pastrami with American mustard, or beef & French onion

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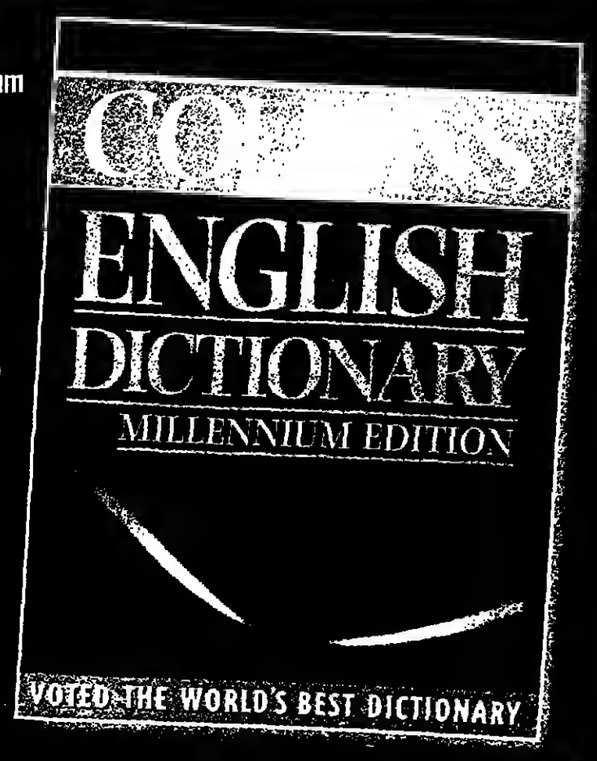

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Muscovites, hit hard by the rouble crash, grab at apples being given away at Christ the Saviour cathedral to celebrate the Orthodox holiday of the Apple Salvation YURI KADOBNOV

Rouble pinch draws blood from Russia's high rollers

James Meek in Moscow

WAITING to be selected and boiled, pincers bound to protect the maitre d', plump lobsters jostled each other yesterday in their tank in the lobby of Le Gastronoma, favourite mealtime haunt of Moscow's expense-account class.

It is not the most expensive restaurant in the city. The priciest wine — a 1988 Château Haut Brion — is only £400.

"I'm kind of surprised myself, but people do buy it," said the restaurant's director, Dmitri Yanovsky. "Not every day."

There will be even fewer Haut Brions quaffed there now that Russia's financial bubble has burst. Le Gastronome, housed in a palatial former Soviet sausage shop at the base of a Stalin-era skyscraper opposite Moscow Zoo, opened two years ago as the country's stock market began to boom and foreign investors grew wise to the fantastic yields being offered by Russian government bonds.

The big Moscow brokerage houses threw lavish parties under its vaulting gilt and marble roof, and its tables were packed with troughing suits just off the plane from London or New York, wondering whether they were in Moscow or Manhattan.

According to Mr Yanovsky, little has changed — yet. August is always a quiet month. But at lunchtime yesterday the eerie emptiness of the dining-room, where a man at a white grand piano entertained just two groups of diners, matched the shocked hush which has fallen over the city's once-boisterous financial community.

A girl busks in Moscow yesterday to supplement her family's income ALEXANDER NEMENOV

On Friday, one of Moscow's biggest investment houses, Brunswick Warburg, sacked scores of staff. One broker said between 80 and 90 people — a third of its emplyees — had been laid off. Most were Russians, although about 10 per cent were foreigners. Many other firms that expanded rapidly in the fat months of 1996 and 1997 have also slashed staff.

"The party's been over for a year," said Martin Diggle, from Brunswick, near Newcastle. "The bear market began in September. Now it's a contracting market, not the sort of crazy expansion we saw in '96 and the first half of '97 ... Then it was euphoria, it was let the good times roll."

In the space of less than two years, the Russian stock market went from the best performing in the world to the worst. Now it has virtually ceased to function. When it peaked, some brokers were earning seven-figure bonuses.

"Without wanting to sound sanctimonious, I think the vast majority of people came here not just to make a lot of money but to have an interesting time, to be at the cutting edge," said Mr Diggle.

"Most are in this for the long term. I don't think many people thought they were going to get rich in six months and leave with trunks full of cash. Although some did."

He says the market could pick up early next year. But investors' insistence that they are in for the long haul is being tested throughout Russia.

On the main highway between Moscow and St Petersburg, the economy of the little town of Chudovo has recently been transformed by the construction of a £75 million British chocolate factory.

Cadbury's employs 400 local people to produce 40,000 tons of Whispas, Picnics and Fruit & Nut a year. For the time being, staff are secure — their rouble salaries are automatically raised to match the currency's falling value against the dollar — but operations manager Johan Strydom says the company is taking a wait-and-see position on the future.

The plant is a reminder that Russia is not as obscure, remote and irrelevant to the global economy as many Western analysts have argued in recent days. The country of 146 million has become a major consumer of European, Asian and American goods.

"Russia is the third largest confectionery market in the world," said Mr Strydom. "We have to be a player here."

Although the Russian people, weaker Russian banks and sacked brokerage staff are clear losers from the financial crisis of the past few days, it is still hard to identify which foreign investors, if any, got burned.

Maris Nikolakaki of Renaissance Capital brokerage — another firm which has shed workers — said there would be shattered lives on Wall Street and in the City among those who specialise in Russia.

She thinks US hedge funds — fronts for billionaires who played Moscow like a blackjack game — might still have large holdings of Russian bonds.

"The people who are going to be screwed are the aggressive buyers who refused to sell when the shit hit the fan."

Moscow's wealthy creditors must wait

James Meek in Moscow

IN WORDS that will make Russia's foreign and domestic creditors swallow hard, the prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, said yesterday that the country's rouble-denominated debt would be converted into an as yet unspecified bond and paid back "within three to five years".

The default, which he called "restructuring", would free an extra 4-5 billion roubles (£365 million-£455 million) every week for the government to pay its debts to its own employees and contractors, he said.

Anxious holders of the government's existing rouble bonds, known as GKOs, had expected to bear Russia's plans for their forcible conversion yesterday, but were disappointed.

The announcement was put off until Monday. The only comfort for holders of GKOs — not ordinary Russians, but Russian banks and foreign financial institutions — was that the delay was said to be as a result of advice from two blue chip overseas financial firms, J P Morgan and Deutsche Bank.

The crisis continues to hammer at the gates of Mr Yeltsin's holiday dacha

The pressure on the prime minister and his government comes less from the masses than from the top layer of tycoons and politicians manoeuvring for advantage and survival in a changed economic climate.

The ambitious Alexander Lebed, ex-general and now governor of Krasnoyarsk region, was due to hold talks with the embittered Mr Chernomyrdin in Moscow yesterday.

Sources within Mr Chernomyrdin's political party, Our Home Is Russia, said conspiratorially that the general had already held discussions with "leading businessmen and politicians".

The head of the country's conservative patriotic bloc, communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, has long dreamed of a Russia governed by a neo-Politburo of VIPs, and wants to hold talks with Mr Lebed and the Moscow mayor, Yuri Luzhkov.

Mr Kiriyenko, a former provincial banker, has no political base outside the cabinet. But his most dangerous enemy now is the silence of his patron, President Boris Yeltsin, who in a feat of chutzpah breathtaking even by his whimsical standards has been continuing his summer holiday since the Russian debt bomb exploded.

Mr Yeltsin remained silent yesterday. His spokesman said he was not planning any meetings and might take a trip to inspect the Northern Fleet in the Arctic on Friday.

But the crisis continues to hammer at the gates of the president's dacha. A slew of bad news spilled out of the statistics ministry yesterday showing that the real economy is in a sharp downturn. Real wages were down 8.9 per cent, unpaid wages went up by 6.5 per cent, and GDP was down 4.5 per cent.

Alexander Lebed: Involved in talks with businessmen and politicians in an attempt to end the financial crisis

Draughts contestents play a dangerous game

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

KALASHNIKOV-wielding anti-terrorist forces were on hand yesterday to defend competitors in Russia's World Draughts Cup, held this year in Chechenia, which is currently ranked one of the most dangerous places on earth.

Although draughts is a non-contact sport with no significant following among hooligans, the heavy security presence is justified by the danger of hostage-taking by Chechen criminal groups.

Since separatist fighters defeated Russia's army in a two-year war ending in 1996, a plague of kidnapping has swept the region, with more than 150 hostages — including two British aid workers — currently held to ransom.

To avoid abduction, players enjoy 24-hour protection in the confines of Grozny airport, sleeping in its hotel and competing in the VIP lounge.

Players from Germany, Australia and Israel meet counterparts from all over the former Soviet Union for more than £60,000 in prize money. No government has recognised Chechenia's declared independence. Its authorities hope that hosting the Draughts Cup will help to attract international attention and investment. Because of security risks, Britain and the United States are not represented.

Heavy security is justified by the danger of hostage-taking by Chechen criminal groups

Region split by Mugabe offer of help for Kabila

Andrew Meldrum in Harare and Reuters in Luanda

THE Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, yesterday pledged that nine southern African countries will offer military assistance to the beleaguered Congolese president, Laurent Kabila.

"We are going to respond positively in a manner that will help the government of President Kabila to restore peace and stability," said a grave Mr Mugabe on state television on Tuesday night.

His controversial announcement came after the meeting in Harare of four southern African defence ministers and other officials from nine of the 14 member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr Mugabe said it was a unanimous decision that "all in the region will give whatever forms of support in whichever manner that is within our capability. This is going to be done soonest".

But Mr Mugabe's vow of regional assistance has already been disowned by South Africa, which did not have any high-level representation at the meeting. President Nelson Mandela said in Pretoria yesterday: "Our attitude is clear. It is not to worsen the position by sending a military force. We are committed to peace and that is our attitude. That is my attitude as chairman of SADC."

Mr Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankablana, condemned the claims that the proposed action would be taken under the auspices of SADC.

"Anyone who pretends to be speaking for SADC on this issue is misleading himself and the world. The question of committing troops is a very, very serious and complicated one. It is a decision that would require a gathering of the 14 heads of state," he said.

Botswana officials said they had no intention of sending military help to Mr Kabila. Angolan officials, however, have stated they will send assistance to Mr Kabila's forces.

Namibia's position is unclear. The country's largest daily reported that Namibian defence troops loaded 21 tons of arms and ammunition into two Boeing aircraft bearing registration marks of an Angolan air charter company.

The Angolan government confirmed participation in the SADC initiative. The deputy foreign minister, Jorge Chicote, said: "We have taken a collective decision that all kinds of help should be given to President Kabila, including military support."

Mr Chicote said no details of the intervention had been worked out, but that the move had been approved by defence ministers of the 14-nation SADC during talks in Harare this week. "There is a war going on here and it has got to stop. The SADC defence ministers have decided to intervene and this has got to be done."

Mr Mugabe's attempt to organise regional help for his friend Mr Kabila has sparked a rift in the once clubby SADC. The defence ministers of Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — the only ones present at the Harare meeting — had earlier said that only their heads of state would decide what to do about the situation in Congo.

Zimbabwe has already delivered weapons and supplies worth £90 million to help Mr Kabila's army, according to Harare security sources.

The most potent assistance would be if Angola were to use its formidable airforce to strike rebel lines advancing on Kinshasa. Mr Kabila travelled to Angola earlier this week to see if such assistance could be agreed upon.

Bonaya Godana, the Kenyan foreign minister, said in Nairobi that the rebels had been warned that they could face foreign armies if they tried to take Kinshasha.

Mr Godana said the message had been passed to the rebels in their eastern Congo stronghold of Goma by a visiting SADC delegation.

Mr Kabila did not attend the Harare meeting but sent his son, Joseph Kabila, who is army chief of staff.

Although Mr Mugabe is head of the SADC's security committee, he is not empowered to make decisions without the agreement of the 13 other heads of state. The SADC, which Congo joined last year, does not have a pact that members must defend other members.

Many sceptics in Harare believe that Mr Mugabe assumed tha role of regional leader to distract attention from his many economic and political problems at home. But his approach has backfired with the disclaimers from South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

Young soldiers (above) in Boma who were arrested by the rebels after refusing to mutiny against Mr Kabila. Robert Mugabe (below) with friend Laurent Kabila, the Congo leader to whom he has pledged military help PHOTOGRAPHS: HOWARD BURDITT/CORRINE DUFKA

Schools empty in Indonesia

Kevin Watkins on the children whose future is being sacrificed to economists' edicts

LEARISA ELMAS came home from school for the last time last week. Her mother Erlinda finally admitted defeat in her struggle to give her 10-year-old daughter an education.

"How can I afford to send a child to school when I cannot feed the family or pay for medicines?" she asks.

The family lives in the Indonesian province of Maluku, and Learisa's father, a labourer in Jakarta, has recently joined the ranks of the country's growing army of unemployed.

Many of their neighbours on the desperately poor island of Kei Kecil are asking the same question. Rising food prices and falling incomes mean the education of children has become an unaffordable luxury.

At the local primary school most of the desks are empty. Teachers say that attendance levels have fallen by half during over the past year. Parents are unable to afford the parent association fees on which the school now depends, as government funding has been cut by a third. Even the most basic textbooks have become unaffordable.

The vacant desks tell only part of the story. Teachers say many of the children who do attend school are unable to concentrate because they are suffering from malnutrition or illness. Reports from Oxfam programme officers working with fishing communities on in Kei Kecil confirm that many families can only give their children one meal a day, and that milk has been cut out of the diet.

One year into an International Monetary Fund-led "rescue" programme, the plight of families on Kei Kecil is a microcosm of the social tragedy unfolding across Indonesia as the South-east Asian financial crisis gathers pace. Last month, the IMF director Michel Camdessus pronounced that the economy had "turned tha corner". Reality suggests that it is continuing to hurtle downhill at an alarming rate.

This year, the economy will shrink by 15 per cent. Unemployment has quadrupled to more than 20 per cent. Yet social policy has been relegated to the back seat in the headlong drive to restore what is euphemistically termed "macro-economic stability".

Nowhere are the consequences more visible than in education. According to government figures, drop-out rates have almost tripled during the year since the crisis began. While the IMF and Indonesia's creditors fix their gaze on the latest inflation figures and the exchange rate, a lost generation of children is emerging.

To its credit, the World Bank is responding to the education crisis. It has committed £200 million to one of its largest education operations. It aims to provide grants to more than 2 million students.

Attempting to protect the poor through social welfare schemes in the face of an economic programme that is causing mass poverty is a prescription for failure. The World Bank has been left trying to fight a forest fire with a leaking bucket, while the IMF fans the flames.

The victims are children such as Learisa Elmas, whose future has been sacrificed, courtesy of the IMF, to the interests of commercial creditors and speculators on Wall Street.

Kevin Watkins is a senior policy adviser for Oxfam

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President may face more questions ● Reports emerge of testimony outbursts ● 'Phoney war' tests national patience

Mud starts to stick on Clinton

The evidence/Starr scrutinises 4½ hours of 'hostile' testimony line-by-line in search of perjury

Martin Kettle and Gary Younge in Washington

BILL Clinton's grip on the presidency began to look more vulnerable yesterday. His efforts to ride out the storm after his admission of an affair with Monica Lewinsky came under renewed legal and political challenge as the former White House intern prepared to give fresh evidence to a Washington grand jury today.

While Mr Clinton marked his 52nd birthday with a low-key family celebration on the first day of his holiday in Massachusetts, the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr was reported to be conducting a line-by-line examination of the president's four and a half hours of testimony from Monday in a search for evidence of perjury which could form the basis for impeachment charges.

Mr Starr and his senior lieutenants are seriously considering issuing a fresh subpoena to Mr Clinton to make him answer questions he refused to answer on Monday and others which were not reached within the informally agreed time limit.

No decision will be taken until after Ms Lewinsky's return visit to the grand jury, where she will be asked further intimate questions about a sexual liaison with the president which she claims lasted for 18 months.

Whether or not Mr Clinton is recalled, his secretary Betty Currie and his friend Vernon Jordan seem likely to face the grand jury again.

Further details emerged yesterday about Monday's historic interrogation of Mr Clinton. The New York Times reported that at one stage Mr Clinton's temper exploded with such force that the participants took an hour's break, during which the president consulted his lawyers in the White House doctor's room. Secret service officers monitoring his movements by electronic tagging were so alarmed by his presence in the medical office that they thought he had become ill.

The Associated Press said that Mr Clinton admitted on Monday that Ms Lewinsky performed oral sex on him on several occasions. Mr Clinton had previously denied a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky and repeated in his broadcast after Monday's questioning that his earlier denials remained "legally accurate".

Mr Clinton was reported by sources close to the investigation to have been "hostile" and "defiant" on several occasions under questioning. Flashpoints included questions about whether he soiled Ms Lewinsky's blue dress during one oral sex session, and the exchange of gifts between himself and Ms Lewinsky.

Senior Republicans, who control both houses of Congress where impeachment proceedings would be decided, said yesterday that they would reserve judgment on Mr Clinton until Mr Starr produces his report.

A straw poll of the private views of the House of Representatives judiciary committee, taken by the Roll Call magazine, said that the Republican majority believes Mr Clinton's confessions have done nothing to halt the progress of impeachment.

Though the opinion polls still appear fairly solid for Mr Clinton, evidence is growing of public impatience with his handling of the allegations against him and of his vulnerability to new revelations.

Three polls taken on Tuesday showed most Americans blame the president for his own troubles and do not believe he told the whole truth. But in a CBS News/New York Times poll 71 per cent of those asked approved of the job he is doing as president, up four points from a week ago.

Pollster John Zogby said: "While his ability to govern has not been damaged too severely, for the first time we are seeing majorities favouring the possibility of his leaving office."

A three-to-one majority believes the investigation should end now that Mr Clinton has admitted the affair. But half of those asked said resignation or impeachment would be the answer if it transpires that he asked Ms Lewinsky to lie. Forty-eight per cent believe he did just that.

Decca Aitkenhead, page 8; Women, G2 pages 4,5; Website updates at http://reports.guardian.co.uk/clinton/

President Clinton welcomed by supporters on his arrival at Martha's Vineyard for a family holiday PHOTOGRAPH: JIM BOURG

Doubts flourish as Hillary plays the saint

The home front/Disbelief has greeted the First Lady's claim she was misled by her husband

Gary Younge in Washington

HILLARY Clinton's attempts to contain her public humiliation by projecting the image of a loyal and wronged wife who did not know the truth about her husband's affair until the weekend were widely derided by White House staff yesterday.

On Tuesday her press secretary, Marsha Berry, had said: "She was misled. The president said that and that's true."

But those close to President Clinton say his wife must have known, given the key role she played in providing him with legal advice. And, if she did not, she should have had strong suspicions, given his track record.

"It just does not ring true," said one senior White House aide.

"Who is putting this stuff out?" asked another before discovering that it was coming from Mrs Clinton's own office.

One columnist described the Clintons' displays of fractured family unity — their daughter Chelsea walking between her parents holding their hands — as ridiculous.

"This grotesque pantomime of domesticity that the Clintons perform in public is as preposterous as the portrait of Mrs Clinton as an injured innocent," wrote George Will in the Washington Post.

The message from the First Lady's camp on Tuesday was supposed to serve two functions.

Firstly, it made a public show of support for her husband while quashing speculation of a split. Mrs Clinton was "committed to her marriage" and "believes in this president and loves him very much".

Secondly, it made clear that, while her husband may have knowingly lied to the American public, she did so only inadvertently. In January she told the country she had talked with him about the Monica Lewinsky matter "at great length" and confidently predicted: "That is not going to be proven true."

"I assume that her own credibility matters a lot to her," said one adviser. "She wouldn't want anyone to think that she intentionally misled the country even though he did."

But whether this latest public relations exercise was motivated by political expediency or genuine affection is unclear. For the first time ever Mrs Clinton has higher approval ratings than her husband.

It is known that there was a great deal of tension between the president and the First Lady over the weekend as it became clear that he was going to admit the affair to the grand jury.

The Rev Jesse Jackson flew to the White House at Chelsea's behest to ease friction on Sunday night. "Many women would have been nursing their wounds or in private solitude," he said. "She was in the room helping to chart the plan for his testimony."

Mrs Clinton was virtually alone among the president's inner circle in encouraging him to use his speech to take the political offensive against the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

But it is precisely this hands-on involvement in her husband's legal strategy that many believe means she must have been aware of the truth.

At best, say her detractors, she is guilty of wilful ignorance. She knew an inappropriate relationship had taken place but either the details had been kept from her or she had asked not to be told.

At worst, they say, she was complicit in weaving the web of lies that have now ensnared the couple.

It is more likely, says Mr Will, "her antic defences of her husband have been lies".

Mrs Clinton's camp claimed that until last weekend she had not known the truth about the president's affair with Lewinsky PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH FREMSON

President 'hinted at sex confession in January'

The adviser/Former aide reveals secret polls persuaded Clinton to deny relationship

Martin Kettle in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton made admissions to a confidant about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky on the same day he first denied an "improper" relationship with the former White House intern, it emerged yesterday.

Dick Morris, the disgraced mastermind behind Mr Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign, said yesterday that the president told him on January 21: "I just slipped up with that girl. Ever since I was elected, I've tried to avoid things like this, but I just slipped."

Later that day — the day on which the Washington Post first broke details of the Lewinsky story — Mr Clinton went on PBS television and denied "an improper sexual relationship, or any other kind of improper relationship" in an interview.

According to Mr Morris, who was summoned by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, to give evidence to the Lewinsky grand jury on Tuesday, he had five telephone conversations with Mr Clinton between January 21 and 23 in the wake of sex and cover-up allegations.

In the first conversation, Mr Clinton was "in a bad way", Mr Morris said yesterday. "He was depressed, disorientated and almost on the verge of tears. Clearly, shame and remorse had overtaken denial."

Mr Clinton "repeatedly denied" an affair with Ms Lewinsky, Mr Morris said, but "he kept slipping in comments that made me understand that there was more to this than just a simple denial would cover".

At one point the president told Mr Morris: "I didn't do what they said I did. The charges are untrue. But I did do something, and I'm not sure I can prove my innocence."

Mr Clinton also warned Mr Morris: "There may be gifts, and messages on her telephone answering machine."

Mr Morris said he "didn't ask him what the 'something' was, but I took his cue that it was big". Mr Morris said he commiserated with Mr Clinton, saying: "You poor bastard. I know what you are going through and my heart is with you."

Mr Morris has been a crucial strategist in two of Mr Clinton's greatest comebacks — his re-election as Arkansas governor in 1982 after his 1980 defeat, and his re-election as president in 1996.

In August 1996, Mr Morris was fired after he was caught with a prostitute, but Mr Clinton turned to him for help with the Lewinsky allegations.

Mr Morris's revelations to the grand jury confirm not only that Mr Clinton was telling one story to his close confidants and another to the world in January, but also that he decided not to make a public confession in January because of hitherto secret opinion polling.

Mr Morris said he advised Mr Clinton to "speak directly to the American people". Mr Clinton asked him if such a strategy would work, and Mr Morris suggested taking an opinion poll on January 21 to test the strategy. Mr Clinton agreed.

"Taking my lead from the president's hint about 'something', I asked voters how they would respond if the president admitted he had some kind of sex with Lewinsky," Mr Morris said. The answer from the polling was "no problem". "But when it came to admitting that he had not been truthful in his deposition, they jumped ship," Mr Morris said.

More than 50 per cent wanted him impeached if he lied on oath. A majority also rejected "a speech similar to the one the president gave on Monday [August 17]". More than one in three voters thought he should go to jail if found guilty.

Mr Morris criticised Mr Clinton's Monday broadcast. It was "more arrogant than abject, more contentious than contrite", he said. "Where he needed our sympathy, he appealed to our partisanship. He would have done better to have asked for our mercy."

'I just slipped up with that girl. Ever since I was elected, I've tried to avoid things like this'

What Clinton told Dick Morris (right) in January

Warped little mind game has gone on for too long

Comment

Maureen Dowd

PRESIDENT Clinton is the Grand Canyon of need. He can never stay focused for long on running the country and the world because it gets in the way of his favourite pastime, a warped little mind game called "How Much Do You Love Me?"

The wild-child president enjoys dipping into his dork side and engaging in the sort of hooliganism that requires everyone around him to make soul-wrenching compromises.

Rather than tell the truth about a cheesy office affair seven months ago, he dragged Washington and America into a stupid, phoney war. It's not a war about ideology or principles or privacy rights, although the Clintons like to cast it that way. It's a war about how much Bill Clinton can get away with and still keep our affection. He's constantly testing the limits of our love.

He wants to know if his aides and advisers will lie for him, lose their good names for him, accrue legal bills for him, be saps for him.

Women in Congress who had stuck with Mr Clinton through his seven months of living dangerously were furious about the Lewinsky affair on Tuesday. "It's the grossest kind of infidelity," one told me, "just sheer constant physical relief and satisfaction, really using in the crudest way somebody who was obviously extraordinarily gullible and obviously madly in love with him, somebody who would have done anything for him, and doing this in the Oval Office. I'm having a very hard time with it. I don't want to be an enabler."

The president gave his loyal, accomplished wife a choice between the two roles she most dreads: victim or liar. Either this super-brainy lawyer and strategist did not know her husband was lying, meaning she fell for the oldest story in the world. Or she did know, meaning she lied when she defended him on the Today show.

Mr Clinton presented a searing Hobson's choice to his lovely daughter. She dutifully blessed him with her protection, holding his hand on the way to the helicopter on Tuesday, even though he humiliated her mother with a girl close to her own age.

The Clintons attack Mr Starr to deflect attention from the president's immoral behaviour. They appeal to decent American impulses — Americans do not like lynch mobs, hatemongering, or Big Brother peeking through bedroom windows. The Clintons elicit public-spirited impulses and use them for their private political gain.

But the choices they ask Americans to make are false ones.

One can think the notion of impeachment is ludicrous and still think that Mr Clinton has acted with monstrous selfishness.

One can think Mr Starr's investigation has been scary and still believe that a president should tell Americans the truth at the first opportunity, not the last.

By expecting others to sacrifice so much to preserve his political viability, Mr Clinton has killed something worthy and important in public life.

His game has grown exhausting. How much do Americans love him? Not that much. — *New York Times.*

Advertisement

Why Does Your Memory Fail You?

Forget names, faces?

A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating; whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved".

Simple Technique

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

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To acquaint all readers of The Guardian with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just telephone 0800 298 7070 free, or fill in and return the coupon on Page 11 (no stamp needed). Or write to:- Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. MGM18T), FREEPOST 198, Manchester M60 3DL.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

YESTERDAY we learnt of Jack Cunningham's new arrangements at the *Cabinet Office*. Having taken on the mantle of Enforcer, you will recall, he now inhabits the vast room previously occupied by the department's eight-strong private staff. Now we hear there was some confusion during the reshuffle negotiations last month over what his new job title should be. While Jack was said to like the ring of "Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office," Mr Tony Blair, realising that this might appear to clash with his position as Cabinet head, was not so keen on the idea. A tantrum looked imminent until some bright spark pointed ont that it was a constitutional requirement for there to be a Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in Cabinet. Jack reluctantly agreed, on the condition that it became widely known that everyone always referred to him hy his tongh new nickname: The Enforcer.

A SWEET tale comes to our attention from the Jewish Chronicle. "At husy times of the year," explains the paper, "newlyweds often have to wait a while before their picture appears on the *JC*'s prestigious Faces and Places page." Last week, however, they were called hy a woman asking whether they were going to publish a picture she had sent in of her son and daughter-in-law, and if not, whether they would mind returning it. This, we think, is the least they can do. She has been searching the Faces and Places page for the photo for the last seven years.

YESTERDAY we drew attention to Digby Jack's letter in the Richmond and Twickenham Times. "As a resident living right under a flight path," he wrote, "I sometimes welcome the two Concorde flights to New York on some Sunday mornings. They help me wake up after a very husy and stressful working week." His letter goes on to point ont that "the economic benefits of Heathrow's development far outweigh the inconvenience". What Dighy neglects to mention, we discovered yesterday, is that his "busy and stressful working week" is spent as regional officer for MSF (Manufacturing, Science and Finance union), representing workers at two of Britain's largest companies — Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham — whose headquarters also lie next to the capital's busiest airport.

A DOCUMENT headed "Top Secret" finds its way to *the Diary* desk. "This list is NOT for pnblic consumption, like my apple ples," It reads, "until AFTER I have been elected." It is from Charles Bronson, Her Majesty's most bearded and some say dangerons house guest, and appears to be a provisional draft of council appointments, should his campaign to become Mayor of London be successful. Reg Kray, it says, can expect to be installed as council treasurer, helped with the maths by Nick Leeson; while the capital's education will be safe in the hands of Bill the Bomh and Roy Shaw. Council whips will largely consist of close friends of Mayor Bronson who "are gonna whip some top totty". Other intriguing initiatives include, immediate pardons for all armed robbers and a new bikini dress-code for police officers — *male* and *female* — *on the* beat. You can try to appear scarier than Lord Archer, Charles, hnt it won't wash.

THE Diary's People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexicon this week examines Tony Blair's 1996 observation, "we need a new social morality" — interpreted by many to be an ingenious attack on redundant Socialist dogma. Ian Parker of Kingston-upon-Thames suggests three definitions: "Raising standards, lowering the moral high ground", "sponsorability not responsibility", and "Less value judgements, more judgemental values". What are you on about, Ian? We want definitions not cryptic crossword clues. A bottle of champagne to readers with more sensible contributions.

Hillary's act as the loyal, liberal wife is a little hard to swallow

Decca Aitkenhead

HILLARY Clinton has been less demanding than her husband, and given America rather less that is distasteful to swallow. But on Tuesday, a spokeswoman for the First Lady asked Americans to stretch their well-worn credulity to breaking point. She announced that Hillary had only learned the truth about Bill and Monica a few days ago. Until last weekend, Hillary had been "misled".

After all the other lies, this is perhaps of little consequence. In fact, it is so hilariously implausible, it could almost pass without note. America is now busy rallying round the loyal wife, congratulating her on her brave decision to stand by her man. Public debate confines the political implications of the scandal to the question of impeachment; the private relationship between the president and his wife is now said to be just that, private.

How Bill and Hillary manage their marriage is a matter for them. It will, however, have political implications — not for the possibility of impeachment, but for the subtle ways in which social oorms and expectations are formed. A famous man has publicly and repeatedly cheated oo his wife and humiliated her. And she has lied for him, and shown that her proper role is to forgive, support and understand. Married men casting around for a counter-offensive when their wives discover them in bed with their secretaries can in future take their lead from no less a source than the White House. In small ways, by these public reference points are all our private lives informed.

The contract of the Clinton marriage will remain a mystery, but there is little mystery about why liberal women of Hillary's generation find it so hard to condemn reckless infidelity. They are of a generation which rejected the idea that sex was shameful, believed in personal freedom, and despised the claustrophobia of pre-Sixties domestic arrangements. They were quite right in all of this — but a few decades later, their beliefs appear to mean they aren't allowed to mind when their husbands get blowjobs off office girls.

They seem to think that to mind would be a betrayal of the Sixties, and an embarrassing defection to the conservative camp. How could you spend all those years arguing for self-fulfillment, then come over all indignant when your husband seeks his fulfillment in somebody else's mouth?

It wouldn't just be conservative to object, but dreadfully unsophisticated. Modern women, heirs to the sexual revolution, should be far too worldly to take offence at the odd affair. Only suburban housewives get upset over such matters, they remind themselves.

In acknowledging the power and pleasure of sex, that generation of liberals have also transformed it into a right. If sex is natural, and sexual urges normal, then, goes the argument, it should not be denied. This intellectual leap — from normality to eotitlement — has done the world of good for those who argue the old biological determinist line.

Men just can't help themselves, they shrug — they are innately promiscuous, slaves to a pre-programmed urge to spread their seed, preferably among pretty, nuhile girls. Intelligent women are told that they should understand this. If they have a problem with it, the responsibility lies with them to overcome it, rather than with men to overcome their urges. It is also, therefore, the task of wives to address themselves to any sexual shortcomings, endlessly having to refresh their allure to keep their men from getting bored. When Hugh Grant was arrested for buying blowjobs from a prostitute, the explanation universally put about was that Elizabeth Hurley obviously didn't do oral sex, and should get a taste for it sharpish.

IN view of all this, it is not terribly surprising that women like Hillary bear their indignity with gritted grace. In doing so, however, they allow the whole sorry muddle of confused ideals to endure, when they could be applying their considerable power to the business of exposing it.

The biological determinist argument is so thin it barely merits demolition, hut for what it's worth, it should be pointed out that Bill Clinton's extra-marital biography exhibits no propensity for reproduction.

Even in Bill's strange world of sexual definitions, blowjobs cannot possibly make babies. Nor, without wishing to be unkind, do the women involved match the model of irresistible desire. Monica Lewinsky was not irresistible. She was just grateful.

The more important argumeot is the one about sexual freedom, and how the right wing have been given the monopoly oo objections to extra-marital blowjobs. Liberals have allowed right wingers to appropriate criticism of infidelity, and to package it in a wholesale stock of conservative beliefs which include opposition to the Sixties, feminism, personal freedom, sexual experimentation, even sex itself.

They have been complicit in letting conservatives invent a bizarre logic, which says that if you think it's normal for people to have sex with different people before they get married, you also think it's fine for them to carry on doing so behind each others' backs afterwards.

It is about time liberals put the record straight. There is nothing inherent in liberal sexual values which licenses lies or betrayal or humiliation. Nor does it make yon a conservative to feel that personal commitments should be honoured.

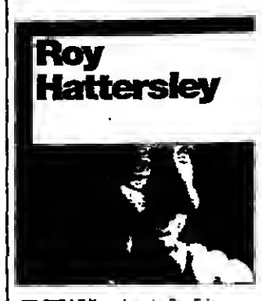
There is nothing unsophisticated about objecting when your husband gets an office intern to go down on him, then finishes himself off while she performs a naked dance. And there should be no moral responsibility for a wife to "come to terms" with her husband's inconvenient little weaknesses.

With every fresh embarrassment in the Clinton presidency, the liberal establishmeot has closed ranks around its hero, and now his wife has followed suit. Just like Clinton, they offer apologies and excuses to protect their own interests, but in doing so they discredit the very liberal ideals they keep telling us are more important than petty sexual gossip.

In keeping with her husband, Hillary Clinton has now proved to be a great disappointmeot. She could have told the world that being a good liberal does not have to mean indulging wankers.

Why I might vote for Liz

Roy Hattersley



I SHALL not vote for Liz Davies in the election for Labour's National Executive Committee — unless Tom Sawyer makes another public attack upon her.

It was neither the General Secretary's intemperance nor his impropriety which almost converted me to the Davies cause. I simply felt embarrassed that a man who first came to public notice by shouting down Jim Callaghan should assume the role of sycophant-in-chief. However, he has not quite driven me into the Davies camp.

Like me, Ms Davies believes in "a fairer, more compassionate and more collective society". But I donbt if we could agree a definition of how it can be achieved. So I am not one of her natural allies. I shall, however, support some of the candidates recommended, along with her, by the Grass Roots Alliance — the most unlikely bedfellows since Mrs Jekyll woke up next to Mr Hyde.

This NEC election is contaminated by the publication of rival lists — one commended for its loyalty, the other for its independence of mind. If One Member One Vote is to produce a genuinely democratic result, decisions have to be made by personal judgements about individual merits — not hand-me-down endorsements and grandiose claims about ideological integrity.

I shall pick and choose. The Members First "loyalist" list offends me most. The Labour leadership, which defines loyalty as uncritical agreement, demeans itself by supporting such an initiative. And it diminishes the party's moral authority by endorsing candidates who promote their cause by buying advertising space in newspapers. If only the rich or well-connected can win a seat on the national executive, Labour has abandoned more of its old ideals than I had feared. I shall, however, vote for two Members First loyalists.

Michael Cashman is a brave and reasonable campaigner for gay rights — not an easy combination of virtues — and certainly not a creep. When, shortly after the election, he feared that the reform promises would be broken, he felt no obligation to argue that the Prime Minister could do no wrong. I rely on him to speak his mind. Diana Jeuda, a Members First nominee, was (I am assured) almost included in the Grass Roots Alliance list. When we were all on the NEC Tom Sawyer told me that she talked too much. He meant that she argued with the Labour establishment. She was, and no doubt still is, a mild eccentric. An enthusiastic yachtswoman, Ms Jeuda passed boring moments in committee meetings by splicing rope-ends. When she says that she will be critical hut "only behind closed doors", I believe her.

Andy Howell (from the Grass Roots Alliance) was, for three years, the highly successful chair of the Birmingham City Education Committee. David Blunkett used to boast that he would adopt the most progressive Howell ideas and apply them across the country. And so he did — including the University of the Third Age and summer holiday tuition. He is certainly on the left of his father. But — as my friend and mentor Denis Howell would gladly agree — almost everybody was. His offence against the leadership is suggesting that members should be treated with respect.

MY fourth vote will go to Mark Seddon, Tribune's gift to the Grass Roots Alliance. Mr Seddon lives and works in the tradition of joyous dissent — which is why he so admired Neil Kinnock and Michael Foot in their cheerful periods. His temperament — and some of his ideas — annoy his elders. They have annoyed me in the past. But his healthy iconoclasm is just what the executive needs. He will say what others believe but are too cautious (or polite) to say.

With only two places left to fill, I give my fifth vote to Adrian Bailey — the virtually unaligned Midlands Co-operative Party organiser. Like the movement for which he works, Mr Bailey cannot be accused of being glamorous. All that he has to commend him is a lively mind and a lifetime of unostentatious work for the Labour Party. When the new constitution excluded high profile MPs from the constituency section of the NEC, it was (or ought to have been) candidates such as Adrian Bailey that it had in mind as ideal replacements.

> This NEC election is contaminated by the publication of rival lists

So I am left with one place to fill. My vote will certainly not go to Peter Willsman who, as I remember him, is a critic of the unconstructive sort. One possibility is Margaret Payne, who wants to promote the participation of ethnic minorities within the party. The other is Terry Thomas. He wins high marks because of his brave moderation when he was a Welsh miners' leader — and loses most of them by not mentioning his NUM past in his official election biography.

I shall decide between them during the next couple of weeks and vote by post so as not to take part in the ludicrous prize draw which is New Labour at its very worst. That, of course, is assuming that Tom Sawyer does not attack Liz Davies again.

The current chaos in Congo is par for the course. From Kurtz to Kabila, the country has always been a symbol of the anarchic

Unspeakable fear

Justin Cartwright

LAURENT Kabila, supposedly a representative of a new kind of African pragmatism and common sense, appears to be on the run. Some of the recruits he promised a wage and — bizarrely — sardines, have been shot by their own side while travelling to the front. There are fears he will engulf his neighbours in a regional conflagration: with the Southern African Development Community divided nver whether to shore him up, and Nelson Mandela warning that sending in foreign troops will only make things worse.

The Congo, perhaps unfairly, has always been a symbol of the anarchic. The horror of Joseph Conrad's Kurtz, was the unspeakable fear of humankind which knows no humanity. It was also the fear that anyone caught in it could regress to the savage. The belief that the Congo has remained stuck in a morass of ignorance and violence is pervasive. What's happening in the Congo now has done nothing to alter that belief.

For those with long memories, Kisangani, which fell to Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo more than a year ago, was once called Stanleyville. It was founded by the Welsh-American adventurer, Henry Morton Stanley. It was taken in 1964 by Belgian paratroops travelling in American and British transport, with the purpose of rescuing European and American hostages held by Simba rebels. The Simba troops of Nicolas Olenca were famous, at least in the propaganda war, for their atrocities. The paratroops were only partially successful. Before they had taken the town, many of the hostages were murdered. The Congo was living up to its reputation for irrational violence. This reputation goes back a long way: even David Livingstone reported that his men were afraid to go on towards the copper mines of Katanga and that he was forced to turn back.

Fairly recent television pictures of wild and naked men on the Rwanda border armed with spears and guns suggest that in that vast country there are at least pockets of primitive savagery. But how do we know? They may be school teachers who dress like this at weekends; this is how profound our ignorance of this great sprawling country is.

A few years after the hostage rescue fiasco, Stanleyville entered literature with V S Naipaul's Bend In The River, so prodncing the second English literary masterpiece set in the Congo. Naipaul describes the desolation of the place, the burned-out suburbs, the destroyed town, and the overgrown gardens.

The Congo, yon feel, is a place which is just waiting to reclaim its own. It will never become a modern state. Missionaries, mercenaries and adventurers all, in the end, yield to the inevitable, and return home. Buildings fall down, roads disappear into the jungle.

It is particularly ironic that, nearly 30 years later, Kabila, Che Guevara's old companion at arms, should be trying to defend Kinshasa. There have always been questions about Kabila. For a start, what sort of man can run a rebel movement for 30 years? And what sort of regime did he institute when he got to Kinshasa? Nobody was expecting a democratic revolution of the South African sort, but at the same time the world was expecting something better than the regime of the leopard-skin-hatted, fly-whisk-equipped Mobutu. When South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, a sophisticated man, helped negotiate Mobutu's end, it was clearly painful for him to be photographed with this relic of another era, the era of clownishly sinister dictators. Now, if his enemies are to be believed, Kabila seems to have taken up Mobutu's reins cheerfully.

For a Westerner, the idea that there is a country where normal rules do not apply is strangely disturbing. Maybe ignorance is our chief obstacle to understanding what is going on there. But the West, perhaps because of its inglorious role there during the Cold War, is standing aside during the present conflict. There is a distinct feeling in the corridors of power that the Congo is too fragmented, too irrational, too intractable to be capable of settlement.

There is also the fear that somehow a place like this can only drag you down — as Conrad said of Kurtz. "It was they that possessed him and made him their own to the innermost thought, the slightest stir of blood, to his last breath." At the turn of the century, there was a fear that evolution could go into reverse, and the Congo was just the place to set the process in motion. This had happened to Kurtz.

When Belgium abandoned the Congo in 1960, only 136 children had completed secondary school the previous year in a country of 14 million. There were just 16 university graduates. For years the West felt guilty about the chaos which set in. Now the prevailing feeling is cynicism and hopelessness. After all, nearly 40 years have passed, more than half the whole colonial experience. Perversely, this abandonment by the West increases the pressure on South Africa, both to take a lead in Africa, and to succeed at home, because South Africa represents the last chance of Africa to confound the cynics.

Justin Cartwright's new novel, Leading The Cheers, is published on September 15

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'I am told that in 1978 Tom Sawyer was organising the Winter of Discontent'
Liz Davies, Letters

People Power

From the horror, hope

FOR the second time in as many months, an atrocity designed to drive a stake through the heart of the Irish peace process appears to have achieved exactly the opposite result. Last month, the loyalists who burned three children to death in Ballymoney created such a wave of revulsion among ordinary Unionists that they broke the back of the Drumcree protests and decisively isolated the most backward wing of Orangeism. Now the massacre perpetrated by the "Real IRA" in Omagh — a bombing intended to cut the political ground from beneath both Gerry Adams and David Trimble — has left the splinter group's leaders running for cover in the face of hostility and rage from both the republican mainstream and the wider nationalist population.

It was difficult to discern much hope amidst the misery of the burials of the Omagh innocents yesterday. But the plea from Archbishop Sean Bradley, leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, that the victims of the Omagh slaughter should not be allowed to have died in vain may turn out to be more than the wishful thinking it might have been in earlier years. The symbolic presence of the leaders of both Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists yesterday at the funerals of three boys killed by Saturday's bomb in Buncrana, County Donegal, highlighted the extreme isolation of both the republican and loyalist dissident rumps.

Mo Mowlam inevitably poured public scorn on the Real IRA's hurried announcement of a "suspension of military operations". But the faction's chaotic U-turn is an unmistakable sign of the sea-change in the politics of the North wrought by the Good Friday agreement.

There is no doubt that republican leaders have put intense pressure on the breakaway group — Sinn Fein chairman Mitchel McLaughlin admitted yesterday, in a studiedly cautious statement, there had been "contact" through intermediaries — in an effort to bring the recalcitrants to heel. The same arm-twisting now needs to be applied to the other rejectionist factions. But just as important has been what David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party, called the "deafening" popular condemnation and revulsion across Ireland.

The combination of the two is what has driven Michael McKevitt of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement (directly linked to the Real IRA) and his partner, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt — sister of the legendary republican hunger-striker, Bobby Sands — to flee their home in Dundalk and escape the fury of their own people. During three decades of conflict, neither republican nor loyalist paramilitary leaders have ever had to face the indignity of the threats and home protests being visited on the McKevitts. Now the couple have taken refuge in protesting their innocence to a local parish priest, while Sands-McKevitt yesterday called an Irish radio phone-in programme to condemn the Omagh bombing and back a "peaceful route" to solving the enduring problem of the North. That is a measure of both the strength of cross-community support for the Good Friday agreement — more important in the long-run than the "draconian" new anti-terrorist legislation announced by the Irish government yesterday — and the political and military weakness of the opposition groups, masked by the unprecedented scale and horror of Saturday's bombing. That does not mean there will be an end to the outrages. But the republican movement, bolstered by its carefully-nurtured democratic mandate, shows no signs of splitting, as it did so fatefully in the early 1920s and 1970s. Paradoxically, the worst carnage of Northern Ireland's troubles has only served to emphasise the solid foundations of the political process constructed to bring them to an end.

Hiding success

Exam boards should be bolder

TODAY'S A-level results are better than the examination boards admit. Over-sensitive to caustic sceptics, who have derided a decade of annual improvements, the examination boards yesterday implied there had only been a 0.2 per cent increase in the pass rate this year. Unlike continental countries, the UK is so suspicious of success that the boards massaged the figure down for fear of being charged with making their examinations easier. In a lamentable exercise which would have been failed by any mathematics examiner, the boards compared this year's initial pass rate with last year's final revised rate, which is always higher because it includes successful appeals. Success, it seems, must be hidden. The real improvement is 0.7 per cent.

The boards should have been more robust with their critics and fairer to the 300,000 plus candidates who achieved an 88 per cent pass rate in the 823,000 examinations they undertook. Teachers, pupils and parents all have reason to be proud of the rising pass rate. There is no reason to be ashamed of the 20 per cent improvement in A-level passes since the early 1980s. Until then, examiners were instructed to fail 30 per cent of all candidates no matter how bright they were. Sensibly, this iron rule was replaced by a "criterion referenced" system, which ensures all pupils who reach the required level are awarded a pass. A combination of this rule, along with extra effort by students and greater expertise among teachers, has prompted the improvement. A-levels rightly remain the exam most trusted by employers. Unlike university degrees, they are a national award. A pass in Toxteth is worth just as much as a pass in Cambridge.

A 0.7 per cent increase in overall pass rate is smaller than in earlier years. This is inevitable. There will always be an irreducible minimum failure rate, if the system encourages people to have a go who might not succeed. That is what education opportunity is about. But five years ago the failure rate was 20 per cent. That was too high and too wasteful. It remains unclear what will happen now. Ministers are divided. The Prime Minister wants to protect its "gold standard" status. Other ministers want an over-arching certificate to include both vocational and academic subjects. Radical changes have been made over its 50 years. Within the last decade, boards have been cut, syllabuses reduced, and modular exams expanded. But ministerial divisions suggest the next changes will be evolutionary, not revolutionary.

Acronyms anon.

But it can help to smile

NURSES ARE in hot water over their note-taking. The angels, it seems, have a rather dark sense of humour and use a variety of less than flattering acronyms to describe their patients' conditions. BUNDY stands for But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet, FLK means Funny Looking Kid, PIN is a Pain In the Neck. If they are found out they will face disciplinary action, according to the UKCC (the United Kingdom Clerical Controllers, aka the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting).

Nurses are, of course, just following the lead given by doctors. FLK is a classic piece of GP note-ese, along with SIG (Stroppy Ignorant Git) and PAFO (Pissed And Fell Over). The BMA (Beware Malevolent Acronyms) has on several occasions warned doctors not to add such personal annotations to their patients' medical records but without much success. GPs probably reason that, since no one can read their handwriting anyway, they are safe from legal redress.

Soldiers also use acronyms as part of their defence. SNAFU — Situation Normal, All Fouled Up, or something along those lines — was a universally accepted description in the second world war. SAPFU — Surpassing All Previous Foul-Ups — marked a deterioration in affairs. The Paras are fond of JAFO (Just Another F***ing Observer), and Bill Clinton might have been better off resorting to that old army standby, CRAFT's disease (Can't Remember A F***ing Thing).

The black humour of the medical, as much as the military, world is a fact of life; or more properly a way of coping with death. Nurses mock the emotional involvement of the staff in the TV series Casualty: when death and disaster are your daily currency, you can't afford to grieve. They are not superhuman and the in-jokes and barbed references seem to act as an outlet, almost a catharsis, a way of laughing in the face of routine suffering. Angels are helpful after death; sane, rational, focused professionals are more useful pre-BUNDY.

Letters to the Editor

Cock-up or conspiracy?

YOU say (Clinton and Starr in a fight to the finish, August 19) that "the world seems to be paying a steep price for those moments of dalliance in the Oval Office". Surely what the world is paying a steep price for is the American right's refusal to accept the result of two democratic presidential elections.
John Fauvel.
Milton Keynes.

STANDING back from the callow trivialities of Mr Clinton's erotic life intertwined with American domestic political manoeuvres, surely the moral for us in Europe is that we cannot afford to go on being at risk from dependence on world primacy held by so erratic, easily distracted and cheaply moralising a society and government as the US. That should bounce us over the political timidity that deters us building a powerful federal Europe.
Raymond le Goy.
Canterbury.

IF HE had been faithful and honest, wouldn't Kenneth Starr have been able to impeach him for un-American activities.
Laurens Otter.
Wellington, Salop.

IN 1809 President Madison passed the Non-Intercourse Act, a foreign affairs law enacting a trade embargo. Should it now be be applied to domestic affairs?
Michael Hill.
Deal, Kent.

IN a late 19th-century election Gladstone, then at an advanced age, was rumoured to be having affairs with young women. When this was reported to Disraeli he remarked: "Don't let it get out; he'll sweep the country."
Alan Barker.
Edinburgh.

WAS it conspiracy or the other theory that led you to place Clinton next to Lord Cocks (69) in your Birthdays column (August 19)?
Lyn Rowland.
Penzance, Cornwall.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

NEC poll of discontent

AS THE general secretary of the Labour Party, Tom Sawyer is the paid official ultimately responsible for the fair conduct of the current ballot for the NEC. Yet his attack (Letters, August 19) on the candidates of the centre-left Grass Roots Alliance contravenes the assurance we received from his assistant general secretary that party officers would remain "neutral" in this campaign.

Tom Sawyer attempts to associate me and my colleagues with the troubles of the 1970s. I was at school at the time (I am now 34). I am told that in 1978, a Nupe official named Tom Sawyer was organising the Winter of Discontent and that he went on to become a leading Bennite in the early 1980s. This same Tom Sawyer now accuses me and my colleagues of dissembling.

The detailed printed statements of the Grass Roots Alliance have been made widely available to party members, who have also had the opportunity of questioning us at open meetings. Members can be assured that, with the six of us, they get what they see.
Liz Davies.
London.

PAUL Richards claims that "the more mainstream Labour Party members who have a say, the less likely the extremists are to win seats on the NEC" (Letters, August 18). This is simply not true. The constituency section of the NEC used to be elected by the delegates to Labour Party conference, but now all members vote. Contrary to the horror of the machine, "mainstream Labour Party members" put Dennis Skinner, Ken Livingstone and myself on the NEC.

It is because the politics that Dennis, Ken and I stand for are popular with ordinary Labour Party members that the party has decided to stop us running in the constituency section. In the same way they want to stop London Labour Party members choosing Labour's candidate for mayor because they know it would be Ken Livingstone.

I am grateful for the assurances about the integrity of the telephone voting system. But it was not authorised, or even discussed, by the NEC and would be illegal if used in trade union elections.
Diane Abbott MP.
House of Commons.

CONTRARY to what the perennially excitable Paul Richards claims about the Grass Roots Alliance (Letters, August 15), I hope that as many people as possible vote in the NEC elections. My concern over telephone voting was one of scrutiny. We have since been given written guarantees by the party answering these concerns. But it remains the case that the party's rule on the exclusive use of a One Member, One Vote postal ballot is quite specific.

As a Tribune reader, Paul will know that far from attacking John Smith over OMOV, this newspaper was in favour of dropping the block vote.
Mark Seddon.
Editor, Tribune, London.

AS A candidate in the constituency section of the Labour Party NEC elections, I have noted the prominence given to candidates on the Grass Roots Alliance slate and the Members First group.

Would it be too much to ask the Guardian to give the same coverage to the other candidates who do not appear to fit into the press's perceived battle lines in this election?
Adrian Bailey.
Deputy leader, Sandwell Borough Council.

SO Tom Sawyer doesn't like members to be "mislaid". I, too, am worried about the drop in party membership. It might help if Tom stopped abusing his position and attacking half the candidates. I hope party members are neither *misled* nor mislaid, since the general secretary is clearly so mistaken.
Graham Bash.
London.

MOST of the choices for the NEC are between the Grass Roots Alliance and the "voice of Labour's grass roots". Are there any candidates from higher up the food chain?
Lee Montgomerie.
Leeds.

Bar on journalists in prison

DUNCAN Campbell rightly acknowledges the part played by the media in helping to right miscarriages of justice (Guilty until proved innocent, Analysis, August 19).

He cites the case of Sheila Bowler whose conviction for murdering an elderly aunt was quashed in February this year. As leaders of Sheila's campaign group, we would have had little hope of success without the support of journalists from Trial and Error and from national newspapers, including the Guardian, who visited her in prison and were convinced of her innocence.

In response to newspaper articles, we received hundreds of letters from doctors, nurses and carers, supporting the defence's claim that Sheila's aunt could have walked to her death.

But are your readers aware that journalists have now been banned from visiting prisoners for this same purpose by a recent judgment in the Court of Appeal?

According to the new ruling, "a convicted prisoner has no right to communicate orally with the media through a journalist" and cannot receive visits from journalists "unless the journalists give undertakings that no material or information obtained during visits will be used for professional purposes" (Home Secretary v Simms and O'Brien, 9 December 1997).

Though prisoners can still write letters to journalists, they may fear reprisals for doing so, as correspondence can be examined by prison officers.
Tim & Angela Devlin.
Staplehurst, Kent.

Scavenging the corpse of Russia

THREE years ago while conducting research in Tomsk, I was proudly shown what the proprietor claimed was the first business software in Russia to sell successfully — because "it shows the black money as well as the white".

Restructuring is the official translation of perestroika, but destructuring is a better term, for central planning was replaced with no industrial policy at all (Yeltsin's legacy threatened as rouble devalued, August 18). Gorbachev recognised the black market, filling up the empty shops, but its accounts remained hidden, trading in dollars in cash, not roubles in banks.

For a Western consumer goods corporation, it makes more sense to accept Russia as a valuable if short-term export market rather than make a high-risk inward investment, but the aggregate effect is devastating. The body of Russian industry has been killed and the corpse is now being scavenged. When the Soviet Union ended, so did guarantees for inward investment projects, which were left abandoned at the very time that a programme of import substitution was critical to survival. What is desperately required is a latter-day Marshall Plan.
Phil Dowell.
Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

THOSE who fear the political consequences in Russia have forgotten one thing. Any successor to Yeltsin would be faced with the same economic problems. The government can't pay its existing state employees, so imagine the implications of putting the whole nation back on the government payroll by restoring the command economy. That would be dangerous for the hard-line communists — they would certainly have to take advice from the Chinese government on "market socialism". As for the extreme right — repression would only add fuel to the fire.

The days of Russia as a single state could be numbered if there is total economic collapse. What the West should be worried about is that Russia's nukes could fall into the hands of local rulers.
Clare Hartley.
London.

Cast list

IT is a pity that in responding to Michael Billington's criticisms of the Royal National Theatre, Trevor Nunn should have underestimated the Almeida (Letters, August 17).

This year we will have presented plays by Gogol, Pirandello, O'Neill, Shaw, two tragedies by Racine, a new David Hare, a new Edward Albee, Brecht, Ostrovsky, two world premieres of contemporary operas, and created a new three-week festival for Malvern. We also have an extensive touring programme and produce our own work in the West End.

We are all struggling to survive oo inadequate public funding, but it is important not to undervalue work created by the energy and dedication of those people who have chosen to work with us.
Jonathan Kent.
Ian McDiarmid.
Joint artistic directors,
Almeida Theatre, London.

Off course

AS A graduate, postgraduate and now tutor of the Open University, I was appalled to hear of the decision to end summer schools for the new social science course, (Farewell then, Summer School, August 18).

The policy-makers at the OU appear to be concerned not with the marvellously human experience of summer school, where students from diverse backgrounds come together to explore ideas and to mix in a civilised and civilising community, but with the need to address their financial balance sheets.

Like the BBC, the OU is sliding down the path of pragmatic managerialism — forget vision; forget passion; forge instead packages of multimedia knowledge products for sale on the global marketplace.
Linda Denney.
Save Our Summer Schools,
Telford.

Winning streak

FRANCIS Wheen (August 12) wrongly painted a picture of declining National Lottery sales. Total weekly sales have more than doubled since the launch in November 1994 to around £100 million. In the financial year we've just reported, we had record sales of £5.5 billion, up more than 17 per ceot on the previous year, with 23 per cent more going to the good causes. In fact, so successful has the lottery continued to be, that we are now confident of raising an extra £1 billion for the good causes by 2001.

But the Lottery needs new developments to keep it fresh, that's why the action we're taking, such as introducing superdraws and new games, isn't a sign of failure but critical if we are to maximise funds for the good causes.
Louise White.
Director of public affairs,
Camelot Group.

Split views on caesareans

THIS year in the UK, 75,000 avoidable sections will be performed (Call for caesarean births on demand, August 14). This is 10 per cent of all births.

A CS costs about £1,000 more than a normal birth, which means the NHS misapplies £75 million each year. This is all the more serious because of the national midwifery and nursing crisis. Every CS means two or three midwives are unavailable for normal deliveries. The national register of midwives is at a record low.

There is also a shortage of anaesthetists. Their presence at selective sections means rationing elsewhere and pressure on resources when real emergencies arise.

My generation is afraid of childbirth. An older generation of midwives looks at us with incredulity. The good news on the horizon is two-thirds of female obstetricians believe babies are best delivered through normal channels.
Caroline Nichols.
Sunbury on Thames,
Middx.

ANN Robinson gave a balanced response (Hard labour: tough choices, August 18) to the call for caesarean births on demand.

It is interesting how some younger consultant obstetricians are so keen to give women the choice of elective CS — a much easier option for the obstetrician — even if it turns a natural process into a surgical operation requiring anaesthesia and antibiotics.

But in other areas where women request the support and assistance of obstetricians and gynaecologists, such as home birth or legal abortion, our branch of the profession is much less willing to accept "a woman's right to choose".

While the number of deaths associated with childbirth has continued to fall overall, those associated with CS have not done so. There were 60 in 1988-90 and 63 in 1990-93. Those of us who really are senior fear that treating CS as a risk-free consumer option will only increase the deaths.
Wendy Savage.
Senior lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
Royal London Hospital.

I HAD an emergency caesarean last year. I breastfed my baby from birth, walked round the ward the next day, went home three days later, got my stitches out on the fourth day and went shopping a week later. I suffered none of the discomfort of vaginal stitching. Motherhood can be complete without the agony of vaginal childbirth.
Linda Murdoch.
London.

Call for openness on exam papers is short of the mark

PLANS to let candidates see their marked examination papers from next year may be welcomed, but it would be quite wrong to introduce such reform any earlier (Blunkett in move to safeguard A-levels, August 19). This summer's papers were marked on the clear understanding that comments were confidential among examiners. Candidates would have difficulty in interpreting the examiners' shorthand we use to explain marks to senior examiners, but they would also often find remarks about other identifiable candidates with whom we may have wished to compare their performance.

Certainly candidates should be able to discover what we have written about them, but not what we have written about their colleagues. With due notice, we can easily avoid these problems for 1999.
John Hadwin.
Guildford, Surrey.

ANALYSIS (August 18) rightly questions the measurement of exam standards. The number of 16-year-olds who are achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C are rising, but what is happening to the rest? Entered for GCSEs for the sake of their school's league table position, they have been disaffected by a curriculum designed for academic study; 30,000 16-year-olds (3.6 per cent) left school without any qualifications in 1995-96. There is still a group for whom GCSEs are not the right curriculum.

Schools must be encouraged to offer vocational courses and work placements. Then, with measurement of vocational qualifications in league tables and parity of esteem with academic qualifications, we may have a more appropriate curriculum for all pupils and a more inclusive society.
Anne Weinstock.
Chief Executive, Rathbone CI,
Manchester.

New Internationalist *magazine*

Bill doesn't get it

APART FROM NOT TELLING THE TRUTH! He doesn't accept that the damage to our environment has anything to do with emissions from burning fossil fuels; he doesn't understand how over-consumption in the United States drains away the finite resources of our world; and he doesn't see why his country with all its power should set an example in the adoption of green policies. To top it all, he doesn't even realise the significance of refusing to sign up to the international treaty for the ban on landmines. Bill, do yourself a favour and get the NI!

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Otto Wichterle

A new way of looking at the world

OTTO Wichterle, who has died aged 84, was, quite literally, a visionary scientist who made people look at the world in a different way. He developed the hydrophilic or soft contact lens, now worn by around 100 million people worldwide.

He was not the first to think of contact lenses — the great Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci as usual had the idea first. But Leonardo never tried to make one. René Descartes worked out the mathematics of a rudimentary contact lens but was more interested in magnification. Before the end of the 17th century, people were proposing them as a correction for myopia, and the 19th century British astronomer John Herschel described one. The first such lenses were made, of blown glass, in 1888, but until 1954 there were none that could be worn for long. And all were expensive. Wichterle changed that.

He was born in Prostejov, in what became Czechoslovakia, the son of an entrepreneur who produced agricultural machinery. At school he learned Greek and Latin which, he said, left him with a mind "trained in methodological thinking". In 1935 he began his career at Prague's Institute of Experimental Organic Chemistry. The German dismemberment of the country closed the institute down in 1939. He worked for Bata Shoes before his imprisonment by the Gestapo during 1942-43.

In 1945 he returned to teaching. In 1949, a year after the Communist takeover, he became a professor of macromolecular chemistry at Prague University. Then, in 1952, while on a train between Olomouc and Prague, he observed a fellow-passenger reading about metal implants for eyeball replacement. "It would be much better," Wichterle told the traveller, "to invent some plastic for implants that would be compatible with the surrounding tissue." The fellow passenger turned out to be the secretary of a health ministry commission looking into the use of plastics for medicine.

The encounter was, at first, an embarassment: Wichterle had to tell the commission that he had no such material, although he was sure he could synthesise some. He suggested that his department start looking at a class of polymers called hydrophilic, or water-loving, gels, and even before he started, he began filing patents on potential uses, one of which was for soft contact lenses. His institute took a dim view of the research but Wichterle found a partner in a small laboratory, and in 1957, he tried a lens in his own eye. It felt

rough, burning and unpleasant — but he saw immediately that the gel could be used to correct eyesight.

In 1958 he was expelled from his university in a political purge. He joined the Czech Academy of Sciences to do only basic research. That did not stop him pursuing his vision. He used his children's Meccano set and the motor from his record-player to build a lens casting machine on his own kitchen table.

> According to his grandson, Wichterle never got more than one tenth of one per cent of the original fee paid for his invention of the contact lens

In 1961 he had built the world's first soft contact lens. By the first months of 1962, he and his wife Lidia, a doctor, had produced 5,000 of them. Things looked bright — and then the future clouded again. He went abroad, and demonstrated and tested his lenses, although not on patients. "The reaction was unanimous," he later told the Prague Post. "They were a joke, an interesting subject, but without any wider application."

A man from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, went to Prague and bought the rights from the Czech government for $330,000. Nothing much happened until someone from the National Patent Development Corporation arrived in Prague. The NPDC was owned by two US patent lawyers who specialised in dealing with ideas from the Soviet Union. They knew nothing about the technology, but one of them stopped off in Prague to see one of Wichterle's demonstrations.

"I took a lens out of my eye," said Wichterle, "threw it on the floor, stepped on it, then washed it with my mouth and put it back in my eye." The lawyers were impressed enough to buy the rights for one million dollars. In 1967, they in turn found an American buyer in the company Bausch & Lomb, which paid three million dollars. Soft contact lenses are now e multi-billion dollar industry. According to Wichterle's grandson Hynek, now studying neurobiology at Rockefeller University in New York, the inventor never got more than one tenth of one per cent of the original fee paid to the Czech government.

Wichterle himself took the loss philosophically. "I would have had problems with what to do with such an amount of money," he said later. He was dismissed as director of his laboratory, the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, in 1968, after Russian tanks rolled in to suppress the "Prague Spring". But he continued research and when communism collapsed in 1989 he was elected head of the Czechoslovak Academy Of Sciences.

He was the author of 200 patents in organic chemistry, plastics, synthetic fibres and biomedical materials. He gained huge academic distinction and international recognition, and in 1995 he was still working on synthetic lenses to restore sight after a cataract operation. He had patented e lens, he said, that would fit into the eye so well that "the patient can come in the morning, leave by noon — and he can see. To have a new idea is nothing special. But to bring that idea into practice — that requires effort."

He is survived by his wife and two sons, Karil and Ivan.

Tim Radford

Otto Wichterle, chemist, born October 27, 1913; died August 18, 1998

An examination of greed, power and wealth . . . a scene from Mambety's second feature film, Hyenes

Djibril Diop Mambety

Cinema's legacy of independence

THE avant-garde Senegalese film-maker Djibril Diop Mambety, who has died from cancer aged 53, will be most remembered for his classic *Touki Bouki* (1973). The film was about a shepherd and a student with dreams of Europe and its focus was on the mentality of young Africans who were deserting their continent for the uncertain refuge of European cities. Mambety's stylistic sophistication and passion for poetry, sound and light made him, within his generation, probably Africa's most unconventional and respected filmmaker.

Mambety's work took inspiration from *Negritude*, the artistic movement born of the euphoria and excitement of the independence era in Africa of the early 1960s. A key influence was Leopold Senghor, the first president of independent Senegal, who developed cultural institutions to support the new belief and pride in black culture.

Thus it was in 1966 that artists from Europe, including Pablo Picasso and André Malraux, were invited to the *Premier Festival Mondial des Arts Negres*. This festival launched many well-known Senegalese artists. The Senegalese writer Ousmane Sembene, doyen of African cinema, presented his first film *Borom Sarret* — the watershed for African cinema. And the French film critic Georges Sadoul saw, and was impressed by, the rough cut of the young Mambety's short *Badou Boy*, a story about a day in the life of a local pickpocket.

Affectionately known by his friends as "the Hyena", Mambety was born in Dakar, Senegal, the son of an imam, and grew up in the Colobane area

Mambety . . . poetic passions

of the city. His evenings were spent at the open air cinema, watching western and Indian films. He left school at 16 and went on to study drama at Dakar's Daniel Sorano Theatre, where he then worked as an actor and director. Wanting to make movies, and in need of a camera, he went to the local Institut Française — and asked for one, which they provided. His first film, the comedy *Contrast City*, was made in 1968.

While editing *Touki Bouki* in Rome, Mambety was arrested for participating in an anti-racism demonstration. He was held in jail for more than five weeks, and was released after the intervention of Communist Party lawyers and several friends — including the director Bernardo Bertolucci and the actress Sophia Loren. Back in Senegal, he found a huge bill — from the Communist Party lawyers.

In 1991 he completed his second feature film, *Hyenes*, the first of a projected trilogy on greed, power and wealth. An adaptation of the Swiss playwright Friedrich Durrenmatt's *The Visit of the Old Lady*, it tells the story of Linguere, who had been spurned as a prostitute by her former lover and had fled her home to work abroad. Sha returns to her impoverished village a wealthy woman, and demands tha death of her treacherous ex-lover, in exchange for saving the village from further misery. The film was invited to the 1992 Cannes Film Festival, where the Observer's Philip French hailed its intelligence and visual flair.

In 1994 came *Le Franc*, the first of another planned trilogy — this time about ordinary people. It centred on Marigo, a musician whose accordion is confiscated by his landlady when he fails to pay the rent. He wins the national lottery, but his winning lottery ticket is stuck to the door. He removes the door — and travels all the way to the sea to wash it loose. Mambety had just finished shooting the second part of this trilogy, *La Petite Vendeuse de Soleil*, in Dakar when ill health intervened.

We last met in October 1997 in Tokyo. We were developing a film project about the life of Munhumutapa, one of the moet powerful and feared African rulers, whose empire spread across south-eastern Africa and endured from 1400 to 1800.

Mambety is survived by his wife and son.

Keith Shiri

Djibril Diop Mambety, film maker, born 1945; died July 23, 1998

Lamberto Gardelli

The selfless maestro

THE Italian-born Swedish conductor Lamberto Gardelli, who has died aged 82, was one of the foremost postwar interpreters of Italian opera and an intelligent exponent of a wide range of concert repertory. Had his nature not been so unassuming — avoiding the ego trips of most maestros — his true worth might have been much more widely recognised.

But particularly outside Italy, he established an enviable reputation, especially in Verdi. Indeed the Philips record company entrusted him, beginning in 1968, with its pioneering and much-lauded set of recordings of Verdi's early operae, which will surely be acknowledged as his chief gift to posterity. In all of these he judged to a nicety the balance between the raw drama of what Verdi termed his "galley years" and the pre-echoes of the mature composer to come.

It was with Verdi that he introduced himself to this country at Glyndebourne, when he conducted a vital reading of *Macbeth* in 1964 (preserved on vidao). His debut at Covent Garden with the same composer's *Otello* in 1969 was just as much admired, and during the next two decades he returned frequently, always to high praise, not only in Verdi but also in Puccini — his direction of *La Bohème* gave particular pleasure. He brought the Budapest Opera to the house in 1975, conducting Verdi's *I Lombardi*, in which Sylvia Sass made a sensational debut. His first appearance at the Metropolitan Opera was in 1966, conducting Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*, and he returned there to conduct a work that was a particular love of his (he recorded it twice) — Rossini's *Mosè*.

Gardelli was born at Venice. He made his first public appearance at the age of eight as a pianist. Ha studied at the Rossini Academy in Pesaro, where he formed a student orchestra, and later in Rome, where he then worked for eight years as assistant to the revered Tullio Serafin at the Rome Opera; he made his debut there with *La Traviata*, harbinger of what was to come, in 1944.

Two years later he moved to Sweden, eventually assuming Swedish nationality, to take the post of resident conductor of the Stockholm Royal Opera, where ha remained until 1955, when he became for five years conductor of the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Having interpreted the work of many contemporary Italian composers in concerts in Italy, he now transferred his talents to

Gardelli . . . pioneering recordings of Verdi's early operas

promoting Scandinavian works.

In 1961 he became music director of the Budapest Opera, which remained his base for the rest of his career. He retained the affection of his faithful public in Hungary and continued to conduct there with unobtrusive authority well into the 1990s. He was also heard in many concerts and was renowned for his performances of Bruckner and Mahler, notably the latter's second, third, sixth and tenth symphonies, all formidable assignments.

Apart from his Verdi recordings for Philips, he recorded what many consider to be the most consistent set for EMI of the composer's sprawling drama, *La forza del destino*, e performance featuring Bergonzi and Cappuccilli. Besides his Verdi, he committed to disc in 1973 a groundbreaking complete version in the original French of Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*, with Cabellé, Gedda and Bacquier in the cast, an authoritative account of Puccini's *Trittico* and many sets made in Budapest, notably first recordings of operas by Respighi.

In all his readings, Gardelli showed a firm command of a work's structure and used expressive nuance with discernment, eschewing any hint of excess. That gave his performances a satisfying blend of attack and refinement. His own compositions included five operas of which only one, *Il sogno*, has been performed, and a post-romantic *Requiem* much acclaimed when he conducted it not long ago in Budapest.

He married several times and is survived by his German wife Elma and their son.

Alan Blyth

Lamberto Gardelli, conductor, born November 8, 1915; died July 17, 1998

Death Notices

CLAYTON, Briony, who died on the 15th August 1998, in a hospice after a difficult illness, aged 46 years. Sleeps peacefully now. Deeply loved wife of Rick, she will be sorely missed by him and Briony's sister Kristeen, mother-in-law Peggy and their close families and by her close friends and work colleagues. The funeral service will take place on Friday, 21st August 1998 at Altrincham Crematorium at 2pm. No flowers please, all donations to the Macmillan Nurses Appeal. All enquiries and donations to Hopkins Funeral Service, 33 Station Road, Urmston, Manchester tel 0161 748 6834

DUCKWORTH. On August 17th 1998 peacefully in hospital, Robert Kenneth aged 75 years of Timperley, Cheshire. The dearly beloved husband of the late Margorie, devoted father of Timothy, a treasured father-in-law, grandfather and brother. Service and committal at Altrincham Crematorium on Tuesday August 25th at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for the benefit of The Musicians Benevolent Fund may be forwarded with all enquiries to Kenneth Dewey & Sons, Funeral Directors, Altrincham 0161 980 7010.

LOCKHART, Anne Elizabeth, of Loughton, Essex, wife of Bob (Boleslaw), on 17th August, 1998, after a long illness, bravely borne. Dearly loved and missed Funeral at St. Edmund's R.C Church, Traps Hill, Loughton on Tuesday 25th August at 10.30 am Family flowers only, please, donations if desired to The Macmillan Fund who helped Anne, c/o Warriner & Sons, 32 Church Hill, Loughton, Essex. Tel 0181 508 1752.

Memorial Services

TUDOR, John H. 1988-1998. Ten years of missing you Antonella, Catherine and the rest of the family.

Engagements

HAIGH/CABOT. The engagement is announced between Paul Christopher, younger son of Mr & Mrs Alan Haigh, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire and Joanna Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr & Mrs Christopher Cabot, of Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire.

■To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri

A Country Diary

THE BURREN: Today is wet — very! I am walking in my Goretex gear under a large golf umbrella. The rain flails the earth. Even the water collected on leaf, berry, flower, courses in streams. Each hazel leaf is bent, overburdened by water. Rain beats against the flowers of hedgerow fuchsia, fierce gusting winds driving in to sting face and hands. I have to close the umbrella for fear of taking off. Sea and hills are invisible. Gloomy, this summer day in August? Not for me. The hedges are full of colour, pink and white wild roses, fuchsia with its ruby and purple flowers, montbretia's flame-like petals, harebells' silken blue, all shaken, propelled into ceaseless motion against an infinity of green shades, soft, pale, dark and all washed so clean, so clear. A robin shelters deep in a holly tree, reminding me of a Clare farmer's protection of a nest he found in his tractor, near the windscreen. Every second day the robin laid an egg until there were eix. He ensured the family cat couldn't get anywhere near the nest and used the tractor as little as possible, although he drove it to his daughter'a primary school so that the pupils could see and marvel at the nest and its fledglings. The young birds all survived and in their own time fled the tractor nest. What a grand man! I continue my walk and am lucky to find a cluster of purple, scented orchids. I kneel in the wet to sniff their clove-like scent. Such a (seemingly) small discovery, such delightful wonder! So, in an almost underwater world I plod home with heavy feet and light spirits, "With a noise of winds . . . with a clamour of waters . . . (Swinburne).

SARAH POYNTZ

Birthdays

Gerry Bermingham, Labour MP, 58; Mara Bernl, restaurateur, 64; Finlay Calder, rugby player, 41; Prof Peter Day, director, the Royal Institution, 60; John Emburey, cricketer, 46; Roger Gale, Conservative MP, 55; Jane Garside, chief commissioner, Girl Guides, 62; Lord (Gus) Macdonald, minister for Scottish industry, 58; Robert Plant, rock singer, 50; Prof Sir John Plumb, historian, 87; Robin Oakley, BBC political aditor, 57; Yvette Swan, president, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, 53; Dasmond Swayne, Conservative MP, 42; Bob Wareing, Labour MP, 68.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THE CAPTION to a photograph showing the window of a clothing store, Page 20, yesterday, said in part "... even specialist outlets, like Islington's Diverse menswear, are feeling the pinch". On the contrary, Diverse is having a good year, as the text of the accompanying report made clear.

IN DISH of the Day, Page 20, G2, yesterday, about *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, it was intended to include references to the character of Rigsby in *Rising Damp*. Unfortunately it appeared as though all references were to the character of Perrin, suggesting to several readers that the two characters had been confused. In effect, they had. Sorry.

WE MISSPELT the name of one of the Spanish victims of the Omagh bomb, Page 2, August 18. It should have appeared as Rocio Abad Ramos. The names of two Madrid streets were misspelt. They should have appeared as Victor de la Serna, and Arturo Soria.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Letters to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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Analysis
Jobs and inflation

The off-White House 8

A price well worth paying?

Tony Blair once attacked the Tories, who allowed joblessness to rise so that inflation could come down. Now he could be in the same boat. Larry Elliott and Charlotte Denny report

Karl Marx: [illegible] the people, [illegible] weight [illegible] the [illegible] it holds [illegible] chains.

[illegible] necessary to [illegible] employment [illegible] of government. [illegible] Employment, Interest and Money.

Milton Friedman: [illegible] is some level of unemployment which has the property that it is consistent [illegible] in the structure of real wages." [illegible] Policy, American Economic [illegible]

Norman Lamont: [illegible] we have had to pay to get inflation down." May 16, 1991

James Callaghan: "We used to think that you could just spend your way out of a recession. I tell you in all candour: that option no longer exists." 1976

Mervyn King, Bank of England Deputy Governor: "Unemployment is below the natural rate . . . Below trend output growth will lead to some rise in unemployment and a fall in earnings growth." August 12, 1998

When, as Tory Chancellor, Norman Lamont made his notorious comments about *unemployment being a price* well worth paying for lower inflation Labour's employment spokesman reacted with scornful fury: "These comments are an absolute disgrace. They show a callous indifference to the unemployment the Government ministers *have created*"(1). Labour's shadow employment minister at the time was, of course, Tony Blair. One wonders what he thought of the minutes of the July meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, released last week, about the link between rising pay and jobs.

"Looking ahead, some rise in unemployment is likely later in the year, and is probably necessary to contain pressure on wages and earning," said the Bank(2).

In other words, the Bank thinks the jobless queue will *have to grow if* the Government is to hit its inflation target. *What is the difference* in economic terms between then and now? The short answer is seven years, a change of administration — and not a lot else.

Economic policy in Britain, as in most of the industrialised world, is governed by a concept known as the natural rate of *unemployment. For many people* such an idea — that a level of unemployment should not just be deemed as necessary but actually desirable — is an abomination. Unemployment is horrific, soul-destroying, a waste of scarce resources, a cause of a multitude of social ills, and the *thought that* governments should be using it to keep prices in check is offensive. A hundred and fifty years after Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto, policy seems to be dictated by one of his key ideas, that capitalism needs a reserve army of the unemployed to *keep the workforce* disciplined.

So what is this natural rate; does it have any scientific basis? To understand the genesis of the theory we have to go back to the 1950s and the work of A.W. (Bill) Phillips of the London School of Economics who came *up with a blindingly simple* concept. Based on a study of what had happened to wage inflation and unemployment in Britain since 1861, Phillips showed that there was an inverse relation between the two(3): when wage inflation rose, *unemployment* fell and vice versa. The resulting trade-off was called the Phillips curve. It seemed to suggest that policy-makers faced unlimited options: they could pick any level of unemployment and the price would be *just a bit more inflation.*

For governments in the interventionist 1960s, *the Phillips* curve was a wonderful concept. It gave legitimacy to demand management, incomes policy and the whole array of Keynesian measures designed to ensure full employment, and suggested there were no restrictions on the speed at which the economy could be run. Then Milton Friedman came along and spoiled the party. The Chicago economist said that workers were not daft. When they saw governments injecting a bit more inflation into the economy through an expansion of credit or by running bigger budget deficits, the projected pick-up in prices would be factored into their wage demands. Inflation would take off, but there was no fixed trade-off between prices and jobs, as the Phillips curve had suggested.

In fact, there was only one level of unemployment at which inflation would be stable and *this he* dubbed *the natural* rate. If unemployment was above the natural rate, inflation would fall until it reached the equilibrium point; if it was below the natural rate, inflation would simply carry on rising.

Different economies would *have different natural rates,* caused by supply-side factors such as how flexible their labour and goods markets were(4). Friedman's ideas were dynamite, *though they did not* have their impact when he first outlined them in 1968, but later during the so-called stagflation decade of the 1970s, when both unemployment and inflation rose to levels unprecedented in the post-war era, and undermined faith in traditional Keynesian demand management.

The new era was symbolised by Jim Callaghan at the 1976 Labour party conference when he said: "We used to think *that* you could *just* spend your way out of a recession. I tell you in all candour: that option no longer exists."

But it was the right rather than the left that latched on to the idea of the natural rate. By implication the concept required the state to withdraw from actively managing the economy; the only role for government was to make the market work more effectively. State-owned industries should be privatised, union power smashed, employment protection *should be rolled back and* monopolies broken up. Friedman's analysis was so influential that even Keynesian economists took up the idea of an equilibrium rate of unemployment, albeit with some changes. While the monetarists assumed that any *unemployment above the natural* rate was voluntary — because workers refused to accept jobs at the going rate — the Non-Accelerating Inflation Rate Unemployment (NAIRU) was based on a more realistic look at the economy.

The neo-Keynesians argued that *labour* and product *markets* did not work perfectly so action was possible to help people find jobs. However, the practical implication for policy-makers was that most of the remedies at their disposal were on the supply side.

The West's leading think *tank, the Organisation for* Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) believes that the NAIRU has risen sharply across the West over the past three decades, explaining why countries now have much higher levels of unemployment than those *experienced in the 1950s* and 1960s(5).

However, the OECD's analysis seems to be as much at odds with the world economy of the 1990s as Keynesianism was with the 1970s. A rising NAIRU over the last 30 years hardly squares with the evidence of *diminished trade union power,* high and persistent levels of unemployment, deregulation and privatisation.

Most other attempts to estimate the level of the NAIRU have proved to be equally controversial. Estimates seem to follow ups and downs of the actual rate of unemployment, rather than being fixed by the structure of the economy. At any moment, economists can't agree on where the NAIRU or natural rate is. The panel of seven wise men convened by former *Chancellor,* Kenneth Clarke, produced estimates in 1996 ranging from 3.5 to 8 per cent of the workforce. The OECD estimates the NAIRU in Britain stands at 7 per cent of the labour force; that is just above two million people.

The Bank of England has *refused to be drawn into putting* an exact figure on the number of job losses required to keep inflation under control. "There is a great deal of uncertainty about *the natural rate* of unemployment, because it cannot be directly measured and it changes over time in response to structural changes in the labour market," says its latest inflation report. But the report then says unemployment has been above its natural rate since the first quarter of 1997, using accelerating wage pressures as evidence. Therefore, the Bank considers, some 400,000 will need to join the jobless queues *before inflation will stabilise.*

Here is the crux of the problem. The Bank treats the economy as if it were a machine: *that* it is possible both to make an estimate of the natural rate and to use this analysis to achieve the Government's inflation target. But the economy is not a machine; it is more of a living organism and attempts to use an unquantifi*able concept to hit* a precise inflation target merely build in a bias towards deflation.

Tacitly, this has been recognised by the US Federal Reserve, which has responded to the same dilemma as the Bank of England's by applying a *suck-it-and-see* approach. Given that no *two economists can agree on* where the natural rate of unemployment might be, the Fed has adopted a bias towards growth and jobs rather than taking preemptive action to prevent inflation from rising. Wage demands do not seem to be spiralling, even though unemployment at 4.2 per cent of the workforce is the lowest for a quarter of a century. Some economists are increasingly suggesting that *Fed's approach is the right one.* By pre-emptively tightening policy before unemployment reaches their estimate of the natural rate, policy makers turn the NAIRU into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

All this means that voters should be deeply suspicious of policy-makers who use concepts such as the natural rate as if they were immutable scientific truths. It means that while supply side reforms can increase the capacity of the economy to grow, demand still matters. And it means that the next time the Prime Minister is quizzed on the economy, he should be asked whether he believes in the natural rate of unemployment. If he does, how much higher does he think the jobless count needs to go. If he doesn't, why has he handed day-to-day control of the economy over to a body that does?

Sources: (1) The Guardian, May 17, 1991; (2) Bank of England Minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee, July 1998; (3) Phillips, A.W. (1958), The Relation Between Unemployment and the Rate of Change of Money Wages in the United Kingdom, 1861-1957, Economica, November; (4) Friedman, M, The Role of Monetary Policy, American Economic Review, April 1968; (5) Implementing the OECD Jobs Strategy, OECD, 1997.

Graphics sources: Implementing the OECD Jobs Strategy, OECD, 1997; Economics, by David C.Colander, 1995.
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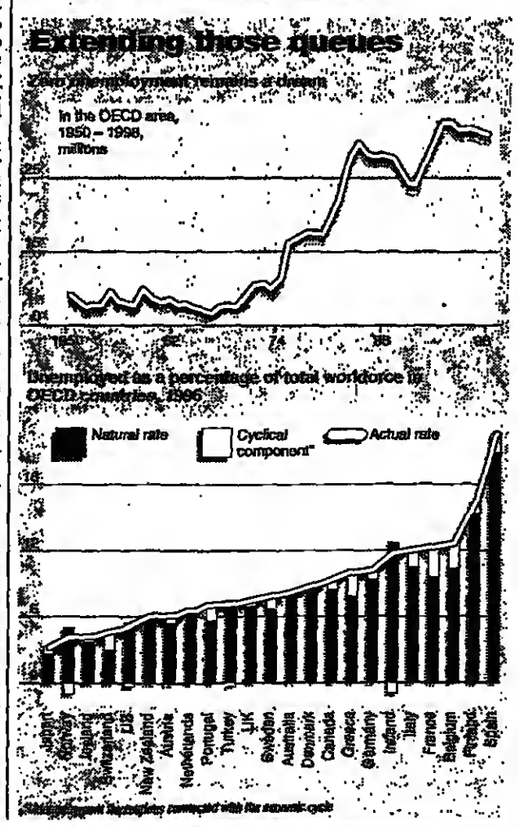
Larry Elliott is the Guardian's economics editor and Charlotte Denny is economics correspondent.



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FinanceGuardian

Retailers desperate to shift stock lure bargain-hunters with discounts

Canny shoppers in control

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

CONSUMERS hunting bargains were wooed back into the shops last month by hefty discounts from retailers desperate to offload summer stocks, according to government figures released yesterday.

After the dismal sales volumes during June, partly because of bad weather and the World Cup, shops and stores reported an upturn in business in July because of huge price reductions.

Data from the Office for National Statistics showed that falling prices in the high street helped boost the volume of retail sales last month by 0.9 per cent after a 1.5 per cent reduction in June.

City analysts said that the trend in retail sales, stripped of the distortions caused by one-off factors in recent months, was heading downwards after six increases in interest rates since the general election and a fall in consumer confidence to its lowest level since the end of 1996.

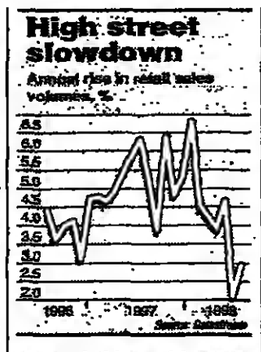
Interpretation of the recent data has been difficult, with two increases and two decreases in volumes over recent months, but the annual growth rate has almost halved since the start of the year.

The ONS said that sales volumes in the three months to July were 1.1 per cent up on the previous quarter and 3.3 per cent higher than in May to July 1997. At the start of this year, boosted by consumer windfalls from building society and insurance company flotations, annual retail sales growth was running at 5.7 per cent.

However, despite clear evidence of the more cautious approach being taken by consumers and the power they are exerting over retailers, analysts said that the Bank of England would want to see more evidence of a slowdown in spending before sanctioning a cut in interest rates.

Further evidence of a slackening in economic growth came yesterday from separate ONS figures for business investment, which was down by 5.5 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

In the high street, the biggest jump in sales last month was in clothing and footwear, where a 6 per cent gain in volumes matched the 6 per cent drop in prices recorded in Tuesday's inflation figures. Reductions of 50 per cent were noted, particularly in chain stores selling women's clothes, where the fear of being left with unsold summer lines was most evident.



In the rest of the sector, where business had been less affected by the June weather, sales performance last month was much less vigorous.

A 1.1 per cent cut in the price of household goods prompted a 1.6 per cent increase in sales volumes in July, but food stores experienced a 1.2 per cent reduction in business.

Geoffrey Dicks, economist with Greenwich NatWest, said that higher volumes were bought by aggressive pricing in the summer sales. "Nowhere is this more apparent than in clothing and footwear, where bad weather earlier in the summer left retailers with unsold stocks of summer lines.

"The cash spend on the high street continues to slow. You have to go back to January 1995 to match the rise of 4.6 per cent in the latest three months compared with the same three months a year ago. So strong volumes in July were at the expense of price reductions: without those the consumer does not turn up."

Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko, said: "Consumers responded to the weak prices with strong demand. This is not inflationary. Weak prices have prompted strong purchases. Canny consumers remain in control."

Priced for a quick sale . . . the DIY sector has proved disastrous for Boots – and Do It All's 4,500 staff do not know if they will keep their jobs PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Boots sheds Do It All after £350m loss

Roger Cowe

BOOTS yesterday sold the 139-strong Do It All chain for £68 million. The deal ends a disastrous foray that has cost the healthcare group almost £350 million since 1989.

The chain has been acquired by Focus, a venture-capitalist backed firm with 71 stores, mainly in northern England and Scotland.

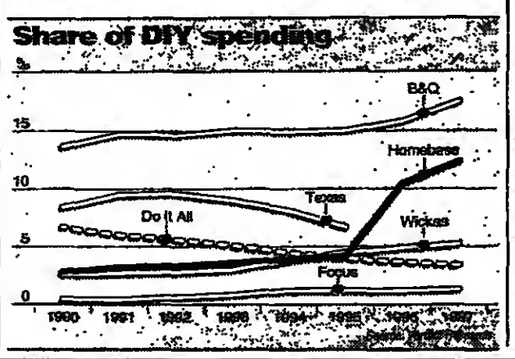
The deal will promote Focus into fourth place in the DIY league, with a similar market share to Wickes but well behind market-leaders B&Q and Homebase. Its sales last year were £148 million, compared to Do It All's £337 million.

Chairman Bill Archer, who founded Focus in 1985, said yesterday that he was aiming for 10 per cent of the market — double its current share.

Mr Archer has built the chain with Greg Stanley, founder of Fads stores and now a non-executive director. They own 40 per cent of the firm, with the remainder being held by Duke Street Capital. Focus said it was too early to say how the chains would be integrated and what the prospects were for Do It All's 4,500 staff.

The £68 million price is less than expected by some, who had suggested figures as high as £100 million. But Clive Vaughan of retail specialists Verdict Research said: "It is an extremely good price. Do It All has just made £3 million profit — which is the first profit for years and its best year since about 1988. And the market is getting tougher."

Mr Vaughan said Focus had built up its network in a very tough market for DIY by being a low-cost operation and concentrating on promotion-driven, value-for-money sales. But now it faced "a pretty challenging time" in the transformation from a discount-led specialist into a national chain competing with B&Q and Homebase.



John Richards, an analyst at BT Alex Brown, said the outlook for DIY was worsening. "It is probably preferable to be exiting the market, not entering it," he said.

He said Focus had succeeded by concentrating on locations ignored by the bigger chains and by developing product areas such as pets and crafts.

Boots entered DIY through the £900 million acquisition of the Ward White group in 1989. Ward White owned the Payless chain, as well as Halfords and the Fads Homestyle high-street shops, which Boots sold earlier this year. In 1990 Payless entered a venture with Do It All, then owned by W H Smith, to create a 234-strong chain. But the operation has never competed successfully with B&Q and Sainsbury's Homebase. W H Smith sold out of the venture two years ago and Boots has managed the process of closing non-viable stores to slim the chain to a profitable core.

Boots' share of Do It All's losses amounts to £20 million; it has also invested a total of almost £400 million, including the acquisition.

● Liberty store chairman Philip Bowman said yesterday that 95 jobs would go in an effort to cut costs. Total sales have fallen by 3 per cent.

Notebook

Moscow makes compound error

Alex Brummer

THE rouble devaluation was a big enough mistake by the Russian authorities. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that Moscow's cack-handed attempt to treat foreign banks and corporations differently from domestic institutions — in an attempt to ease its debt repayment problems — is an even bigger mistake.

There is no such thing as "never" in international banking. But Moscow delivered a psychological blow to international confidence with its moratorium. The normal process — as seen in countries like Korea — is for the banks and authorities to get together and develop a restructuring programme. It says volumes for how little Russia understands the conventions of global capital markets that it chose the unilateral route.

Not, however, that the global banks are blameless in what has happened. It had been clear for some time that any government which has to finance daily operations on the basis of short-term bonds, offering yields of 60 per cent or more, will eventually bankrupt itself. Yet some of the biggest financial institutions in the world happily brought the bonds, hedged against currency losses, took them on to their balance sheets in swap operations and so on — in the apparent belief that it would be all right in the end when the IMF came galloping to the rescue. But it has not worked out like that. The IMF package of up to $23 billion was contingent on political actions which have never been taken, so the economics of the rouble bazaar have continued unabated.

Now that the roundabout has stopped the cost is being counted. It is known that the German bankers will be losers, as Russia's biggest lenders. But they are not alone. Much of the speculation is currently focused on the position of Chase Manhattan, which is said to have been heavily into swaps, derivatives and other arrangements in roubles — although it does not necessarily mean it will be a big loser. The difficulties are likley to be spread right across the market.

Western investment banks have long seen Russia as a great under-exploited opportunity hence recent new investments like Warburg Dillon Read (now part of UBS) in Moscow through the Brunswick brokerage house and Credit Suisse First Boston. All are now in a mad scramble to try and rescue the position before Monday.

In sheer cash terms it is easy to understand why Moscow acted: it hoped to save itself some $17.1 billion a year in interest payments on short-term debts this year. It presumably takes the view that overseas bankers have to come behind other creditors, as the Prime Minister Serget Kiriyenko indicated in his first public comments.

That would be fine if Russian financial institutions and corporations were not busy shipping capital abroad as soon as they recieve. Until the leakages are plugged more effectively financial order cannot be fully restored.

Allied silence

SHAREHOLDERS in Allied Carpets have good reason to be disgruntled. It is now more than a month since the company's shares, floated at 215p two years ago, were suspended from trading at 74.5p after the discovery of accounting discrepancies. These problems, the company assured everyone at the time, were due to Allied Carpets' conservative accounting policies — compared to their competitors'.

However, it is not much use having prudent accounting policies, which take profit on to the books only once the goods had been ordered, delivered, and fully paid for, unless they were adhered too. Taking sales into the accounts early, so as to inflate profits already suffering as a result of broader problems on the high street, clearly made a nonsense of the high standards the company had set itself — and distorted the market in Allied's shares.

Now the first heads have rolled. Steve Barber, the director responsible for group retail operations, has been required to resign immediately. And the group finance director David Pout has fallen on his sword. It might have been helpful — having left investors in ignorance for so long — if the company had deigned to tell them exactly what happened. Instead, they have deepened the mystery by their long silence and failure to explain the resignations properly. If Allied Carpets wanted to restore confidence ahead of the restoration of the share quote nest Wednesday, it should have come clean straight away.

Israeli venture

YOU have to admire Tony Blair's determination to turn Britain into a high-technology economy. In pursuit of this mission, a joint DTI/Treasury team will travel to Israel in the next two weeks to explore the possibility of establishing a £15 million British-Israel fund to invest in promising research and development projects in the two countries.

The fund is likely to focus on areas where the two nations have special expertise — telecoms, biotechnology and materials research. Why Israel? Ask the US. A similar joint investment fund established by Jimmy Carter over two decades ago has turned into one of the most successful venture capital outfits in the world, generating public companies with a valuation on the Nasdaq market in the US worth $9 billion.

It is a neat trick if it can be pulled off.

Allied Carpets pair quit board

Jill Treanor

TWO senior Allied Carpets directors left the company yesterday amid suggestions that they were casualties of the accounting errors which forced the company's shares to be suspended a month ago.

The company, which was only fully floated two years ago, now intends to ask the Stock Exchange to lift the trading suspension on its shares next Wednesday, when it will release its annual results.

Allied said David Pout, finance director, and Steve Barber, responsible for retail operations, had resigned from the board with immediate effect. Bruce Wright has joined the board as interim finance director after a six-month stint in a similar role at B&Q.

Julian Lee, Allied's chairman, refused to elaborate on their departures so close to the publication of the company's results. One retail analyst said the departures had heightened concern that the company might be storing up even more bad news for its results next week.

Allied's shares were suspended at 74½p last month, well below their flotation price of 215p.

The suspension followed the discovery of a discrepancy of how its sales were accounted by its auditors, Arthur Andersen. Further investigation uncovered findings that some of its 258 stores had been booking carpet sales earlier than normal. It is estimated that the errors will eat into profits by £3 million this year.

The company put the early booking of the sales down to "overzealous salesmen", rather than fraud. The company would normally only register a sale once the stock has been ordered, arrived in the store and fully paid for. However, this had not been happening in some stores, Allied said.

Company fortunes started to change after Easter when it warned of difficult market conditions.

EC legal threat to BA-AA alliance

Steve Busfield

THE European Commission intensified the turf war over British Airway's landing slots last night by threatening legal action against the Government.

The EU was reacting to the Office of Fair Trading's suggestion that BA could sell the 267 landing and take-off slots it must give up for its alliance with American Airlines to be given the go-ahead. The slots are said to be worth as much as £1.5 million each.

Commission spokesman Costas Verros has insisted that the slots must be given away, and described legal action against the UK government as "a possibility".

John Bridgeman, director general of the OFT, last month advised Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, that the airlines should be able to sell slots. Mandelson, who will make the final UK ruling, will not publicly state his views until next month. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has, however, suggested that BA should give up the slots.

The Department of Trade and Industry last night said: "The UK competition authority is the final arbiter on the issue of the [BA/AA] alliance."

The legal position remains unclear. No EU legislation exists to regulate transatlantic air alliances, leaving enforcement of the EU's decision up to British authorities. The commission's only legal weapon, a suit against the British Government at the Luxembourg-based court, could take at least two years.

The OFT announcement was the first high-profile pronouncement from Mandelson in his new post. He took action to confirm he could oversee the issue given his post as sole shareholder for the New Millennium Experience Company. BA is a Millennium Dome backer.

TV chiefs summonsed by football inquiry

Chris Barrie

THE Office of Fair Trading is poised to force television executives to give evidence to an official inquiry into the broadcasting of live Premiership football.

United News and Media is understood to have received official warning from the regulator that it is about to require Malcolm Wall, deputy chief executive of broadcast and entertainment, to attend hearings by the restrictive practices court.

Also on the summons list is Malcolm Horwood, a senior executive at the Mirror Group's Live TV cable channel. Brian Barwick, controller of sport for ITV, may also be required to give evidence.

The OFT has the power to force executives to give evidence to inquiries into suspected cartels, and is about to recalve extra powers under competition legislation drawn up by the government to crack down on suspect business practices.

Under the direction of John Bridgeman, the director general of fair trading, the OFT has been investigating the deal struck between the Premier League and British Sky Broadcasting in 1996 which gave the satellite broadcaster the exclusive right to televise live football in England in return for £670 million.

The inquiry, due to open on January 11 under the direction of a High Court judge, will decide whether the Premier League has been operating what is tantamount to a cartel in football television rights. All the men to be summonsed were involved in bids for the Premiership rights.

City scrutiny for lame banks

Dan Atkinson

FOREIGN banks and brokerages based in world financial troublespots, including Japan and the Far East, have been put under emergency surveillance by City regulators, it was disclosed yesterday.

Key to the plan is an attempt to ensure that capital help by London units of such banks is ring-fenced and not diverted to parent companies abroad.

The schedule of institutions at risk is part of an emergency action plan run jointly by the Bank of England, the Treasury and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to shield the City from international meltdown.

The collapse of the rouble and the subsequent economic crisis in Russia would have little effect on the City.

But the disintegration of the Far Eastern "miracle" economies during the past 12 months has put the Treasury, Bank and FSA on alert.

A standing committee meets monthly to monitor the stability of the City.

Mr Davies said the emergency plan included three steps:

● Britain seeks assurances from the authorities in a troubled bank's home country that they are standing behind the institution concerned;

● The London authorities attempt to ring-fence capital held by British subsidiaries;

● Restrictions are imposed on the activities of the most troubled banks.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.63	Germany 2.8250	Malaysia 6.81	Singapore 2.79
Austria 19.81	Greece 474.43	Malta 0.62	South Africa 9.82
Belgium 59.27	Hong Kong 12.17	Netherlands 3.1760	Spain 238.59
Canada 2.369	India 70.037	New Zealand 3.11	Sweden 12.90
Cyprus 0.8287	Ireland 1.1189	Norway 12.14	Switzerland 2.368
Denmark 10.81	Israel 5.96	Portugal 288.40	Turkey 429,950
Finland 8.67	Italy 2,800	Saudi Arabia 5.96	USA 1.5713
France 9.44			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and mdollar)

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Racing

Ebor record for Tuning and Fallon

Graham Rock on a race full of drama for the Cecil stable

HENRY CECIL had a few disappointments on the opening day of the Ebor meeting, but the man who has dominated the trainers' championship in recent years was quickly back in the winner's enclosure yesterday following the victories of Catchascatchcan in the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks and Tuning in the Tote Ebor. Both fillies set course records.

The celebrations were muted, though, after Cecil's second stable jockey Willie Ryan was hurt when Street General fell two and a half furlongs from home in the Ebor.

Ryan's mount brought down Theatreworld, ridden by Cash Asmussen, who was shaken but not injured. "My horse tried to jump over Willie, but unfortunately he caught him," Asmussen explained.

Ryan was taken to hospital with suspected rib and internal injuries and was detained overnight following precautionary X-rays. "He was conscious and seemed positive about everything," said trainer's wife Natalie Cecil.

The stewards held an inquiry and were satisfied that any interference had been accidental.

One of the least experienced of the 21 runners, Tuning benefited from a shrewd Kieren Fallon ride. He kept her close behind the leaders, kicked ahead of the free-running Sausalito Bay after a furlong in the straight, and the lead his mount had taken saw her home as the pack closed. At the line the 9-2 favourite had a length and quarter to spare over Sheer Danzig.

"When she ran in France last time it poured with rain all morning and the ground was soft, which she hated," said Cecil. "Under the circumstances she ran a good race to be second. She really deserves to be a Group race winner and we'll probably run her in the Park Hill Stakes."

Catchascatchcan had to survive a stewards' inquiry after outpacing High And Low by a long-looking two lengths in the Yorkshire Oaks.

Fallon's mount hung sharply to the left approaching the final furlong and hampered the runner-up, but the officials decided that the interference was accidental and had not affected the result.

A popular winner for Lord Howard de Walden, Catchascatchcan is improving fast. The 85-year-old owner, a leviathan in racing's establishment, had watched a stable of runners carry his colours at the Ebor meeting over the past half century but this was only his second winner following success with Weld in the Lonsdale Stakes.

"He deserved it," Cecil said of his intrepid owner. "Catchascatchcan won in spite of the ground. She really wants it soft and it was so fast that we considered taking her out this morning."

Mick Channon's success in recent years has brought him deserved patronage from the Maktoum family. He sent out Bint Allayl to win the Queen Mary Stakes for Sheikh Ahmed and Josr Algarhoud, in the same colours, came late to beat Sailing Shoes by a length and a half in the Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes to complete a 93-1 hat-trick for Fallon.

"What can I say? He's a proper horse. I've always thought the world of him. I knew he was good, but I wanted everyone else to see it. He was in the Convivial Stakes tomorrow, but I wanted to run him here and they supported me," said Channon, through a smile as wide as the Knavesmire.

Fine-tuning . . . Kieren Fallon (right) keeps Tuning going in the Tote Ebor to the delight of favourite backers PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Sainte Marine can prove a sound wager

Graham Rock

SAINTE Marine could finish only fifth behind Bolshoi in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot on her first venture across the Channel, but the French sprinter could be the best bet in the Group 1 Persimmon Homes Nunthorpe Stakes at York today. Judged on her victories at Longchamp and Chantilly earlier in the season, Sainte Marine (3.10) is best over a fast five furlongs on a sound surface, and conditions were against her at the Royal meeting.

Robert Collet, her trainer, has said she will be ridden closer to the leaders this time and provided Dominic Boeuf judges the pace accurately, Sainte Marine could take her revenge on Bolshoi and Ascot runner-up Lochangel.

Elnadim, impressive when winning the July Cup at Newmarket, is entitled to be favourite on his best form, but his preparation has been interrupted and reverting to an easy five furlongs will not be ideal. Land Of Dreams, unlucky in running behind Sainte Marine at Ascot, ran out an impressive winner of the King George Stakes at Goodwood last time. She will be backed to follow up, but Sainte Marine should start at much better odds.

If Bint Allayl (2.35) handles the firm ground she can beat a strong field for the Lowther Stakes.

Kadaka (4.45), who ran Catchascatchcan close at Newmarket last time, can add to Luca Cumani's outstanding record in the Galtres Stakes — he has sent out seven of the last eight winners.

Rugby League

World body snubs Lindsay

Andy Wilson

THE election of Sir Rodney Walker as vice-chairman of a new International Federation in Sydney yesterday triggered a bitter war of words between the Super League and the Rugby Football League.

Sir Rodney defeated Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of Super League Europe and the chairman of the game's previous International Board, which has now been disbanded, 6-3 in a vote of the new federation's 10 member nations. He also confirmed his intention to remain as the RFL chairman for a further 12 months.

SLE responded by issuing a statement which smacked unmistakably of sour grapes. Bob McDermott, the chairman of the First and Second Division Clubs' Association, said: "I was staggered to hear of Sir Rodney putting himself forward for another position and subsequently signalling his intention to remain as RFL chairman. I do not see how he could possibly afford to give more time to his job at the RFL and, given that the amount of time he has put in has been insufficient, I find this news quite staggering."

Chris Caisley, the chairman of SLE and Bradford, said: "A number of clubs have contacted me and indicated that they believe Sir Rodney's attitude towards them quite contemptuous given his previous decision to resign at the end of the season."

The statement warned that the matter will be raised at a Rugby League Council meeting on September 2, "along with a question as to how much it has cost to send three people to Australia to represent the interests of the RFL".

The federation will announce today a Great Britain tour of Australia and New Zealand next autumn, with a World Cup in Europe in 2000.

York Jackpot card with form for the televised races

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.05	Pension Fund	Eagle's Cross
2.35	Bint Allayl	Flanders
3.10	Sainte Marine	Elnadim (nap)
3.45	Sugarfoot	Generous Rose
4.15	Siege	Siege
4.45	Kadaka (nb)	Rambling Rose
5.15	Bold Fact	Mumpari (nb)

Left-handed, U-shaped course of 2m with run-in of nearly 5f. Straight 6f. Ideal track for long-striding galloper.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rated.
Draw: Low to middle numbers favoured in 2.05 and 3.45 races.
Seven day winners: None
Blinkered first time: 4.45 The Faraway Tree. Visored: 2.05 Rating; 3.10 Speedy James.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.05 LADBROKE KNAVESMIRE HANDICAP 1m 4f £20,225 (15 declared) CH4

101 (10) 0-5221 Rehabyl Bowl (11) (D) I Balding 8-10-0 ... L Dettori 86
102 (5) 140100 Heavy Island (23) (D) G Wragg 5-9-12 ... M Hills 96
103 (4) 241612 Premier Generation (13) (BF) D Arbuthnot 5-9-10 ... K Fallon 97
104 (9) 2-3105 Jazzin (67) (D) Sir M Stoute 3-9-3 ... R Hills 94
105 (1) 40-12 Eagle's Cross (41) (D) (BF) R Charlton 3-9-1 ... J Fortune ● 95
106 (3) 640410 Mollycoddle Books (7) (C) (D) F Lefter 7-8-13 ... Kim Tinkler 82
107 (13) 2-4105 Legal Lunch (14) P Harris 3-8-12 ... T Quinn 84
108 (14) 12-002 Pension Fund (28) (C) M W Easterby 4-8-11 ... M J Kinane 86
109 (7) -21052 Tankersley (22) P D'Arcy 3-8-10 ... J Carroll 94
110 (2) 214032 Galway Blitz (3) W Storey 4-8-8 ... J Mackay (7) 85
111 (6) 313245 Yasaki (22) P Walwyn 5-8-7 ... S Cathcart 83
112 (1) 303250 Dedham (13) (D) E Alston 4-8-3 ... Martin Dwyer 84
113 (15) 21443 Balfing (17) (D) (BF) M Johnston 3-8-3 ... M Roberts ★ 85
114 (11) 063042 Just Knight (7) M W Easterby 4-8-2 ... L Charnock 86
115 (9) 642044 Bugwright (28) D Moffatt 4-7-11 ... J Quinn —

Betting: 9-2 Pension Fund, 6-1 Premier Generation, Jazzin, 8-1 Eagle's Cross, Rehabyl Bowl, 10-1 Yasaki, 12-1 Legal Lunch, Tankersley, Just Knight, Galway Blitz, Balfing, 20-1 Heavy Island.

FORM GUIDE - Rehabyl Bowl: Headway at stage header over 1f out, and inside final furlong, ran on well, won by 1½l from Tough Lando at Epsom 1m 4f heap. Gd-Fm. Heavy Island: Chased leader 11f, soon beaten, 14l 13th of 15 behind Sagamoso at Goodwood 1m 6f heap. Gd. Premier Generation: Headway over 2f out, every chance final furlong, was quicken over watch, 3l 2nd of 9 behind Mister Benjamin at Ascot 1m 2f heap. Gd-Fm. Jazzin: Led 3f out until over 1f out, ridden and one pace final furlong, 5l 5th of 8 behind Perfect Paradigm at Haydock 1m 4f heap. Gd-Fm. Eagle's Cross: Chased leader, led over 1f out, soon headed, one pace, 2l 2nd of 6 behind Catburton at Chester 1m 4f heap. Gd-Fm. Legal Lunch: Ridden 3f out, weakened approaching final furlong, 5l 5th of 9 behind Up At The Top at Haydock 1m 3f heap. Gd. Pension Fund: Steadily headway over 2f out, voted 2nd 1f out, ran on well, 13l 2nd of 4 behind Alayaib, with Bugwright (rec 12lb) 8l away last, at Newcastle 1m 2f heap. Gd. Tankersley: Challenged over 3f out, led over 1f out, headed final furlong, kept on well, nk 2nd of 7 behind Rizzatico at Doncaster 1m 2f heap. Gd-Fm. Galway Blitz: Tracked leaders, led 2f out, soon headed, kept on, 2l 2nd of 10 behind Karaz at Ripon 1m 4f heap. Gd-Fm. Yasaki: Mid-division, headway over 3f out, weakened 1f out, 7l 5th of 15 behind Mubtin at Goodwood 1m 4f heap. Gd-Sft. Balfing: Led, flung left over 1f out, soon headed and one pace, 6l 3rd of 9 behind Lady Rachel at Carlisle 1m 4f heap. Gd-Sft. Just Knight: Ridden to lead 1f out, one quicken towards finish, 2l 2nd of 8 behind Penzlemont, with Mollycoddle Books (gave 11lb) another 7l away 7th, at Beverley 1m 2f heap. Gd-Fm.

2.35 PEUGEOT LOWTHER STAKES 2YO Fillies 6f £45,775 (10 declared) CH4

201 (5) 42114 Wannabe Grand (28) (D) J Noseda 9-2 ... Pat Eddery 87
202 (1) 211 Bint Allayl (64) M Channon 9-0 ... M J Kinane 99
203 (10) 11 Mystical Girl (28) (D) D Loder 9-0 ... L Dettori 86
204 (2) 3343 Dashiba (8) D Elsworth 8-11 ... J Fortune 82
205 (6) 11 Snowy Action (26) (D) H Cecil 8-11 ... K Fallon 96
206 (8) 241 Evening Promise (47) (D) B McMahon 8-11 ... M Roberts 82
207 (3) 1111 Flanders (38) T Easterby 8-11 ... L Charnock ● 90
208 (4) 24 Russell Dame (32) K Ivory 8-11 ... D Holland 81
209 (7) 411 Lady Angharad (28) (D) A Jarvis 8-11 ... K Darley 84
210 (9) 51 Yabilal (8) Shaan (15) B McMahon 8-11 ... T Quinn 84

Betting: 7-1 Mystical Girl, 11-4 Bint Allayl, 4-1 Flanders, 9-2 Snowy Action, 8-1 Wannabe Grand, 16-1 Lady Angharad, 25-1 Yabilal El Shaan, Evening Promise

FORM GUIDE - Bint Allayl: Chased leaders, headway over 1f out, led entering final furlong, soon clear, won by 2l from Pipalong at Royal Ascot 5f Gp 3, Gd-Sft. Mystical Girl: Chased leaders, led over 1f out, ridden out, won by 1½l from Gray Rose Lass, with Wannabe Grand (gave 5lb), stayed when held close home, further 3l away 4th, at Ascot 5f Gp 3, Gd-Fm. Dashiba: Always prominent, every chance over 1f out, not quicken, 3¾l 3rd of 17 behind Circle of Gold at Newbury 5f mdn, Gd-Fm. Snowy Action: Led over 3f out, shaken up and ran on final furlong, won by 3l from Blue Melody at Doncaster 5f, Fm. Evening Promise: Held up, headway to lead over 1f out, ridden and ran on well, won by 2l from Boomerang Blade at Nottingham 5f mdn fill, Gd. Flanders: Mids all, edged left inside final furlong, ridden out, won by nk from Open Secret at Newbury 5f, Gd-Fm. Russell Dame: Pulled hard, outpaced final 2f, 4l 4th of 5 behind Rampanti, with Wannabe 7l 7th s/w, Fm. Lady Angharad: Led inside final furlong, ridden out, won by 2l from Diable Dancer at Salisbury 7f mdn, Gd-Fm. Yabilal El Shaan: Strong run to inside final furlong, won by 1½l from Dangerous Dancer at Lingfield 5f mdn, Gd-Fm.

3.10 PERSIMMON HOMES NUNTHORPE STAKES 5f £76,800 (17 declared) CH4

301 (7) 06-230 Atmaly (23) (D) W Mair 5-9-9 ... Martin Dwyer 94
302 (14) -03000 Averil (29) (D) W Muir 7-9-9 ... J Weaver 95
303 (3) 410025 Bishops Court (23) (D) Mrs J Herraden 4-9-9 ... J Fortune 95
304 (17) 011104 Bolshoi (16) (D) (BF) J Berry 5-9-9 ... G Lewther 94
305 (9) 040025 Danehill Mana (11) (CD) I Balding 3-9-9 ... D Harley 93
306 (11) 363020 Emperoll (23) (D) B Meehan 4-9-9 ... M Tebbutt 93
307 (12) 14-231 Elnadim (42) J Dunlop 4-9-9 ... B Raymond ● 98
308 (6) 024504 My Best Valentine (23) (D) V Soane 8-9-9 ... S Cochrane 94
309 (16) 600002 Rambling Bear (11) (D) M Blanshard 5-9-9 ... T Quinn 94
310 (13) 4-4024 Ardmillan Hero (42) L Cumani 3-9-7 ... M J Kinane 98
311 (5) 54-110 Yorkies Boy (48) (D) B McMahon 3-9-7 ... M Roberts 93
312 (8) 32-100 Bollin Joanna (40) (CD) (D) T Easterby 5-9-6 ... K Fallon 97
313 (2) -21223 Lochangel (23) (BF) I Balding 4-9-6 ... L Dettori 95
314 (1) 14-401 Land Of Dreams (28) (D) M Johnston 3-9-4 ... D Holland 95
315 (4) 64-115 Sainte Marine (63) (D) R Collet (FR) 3-9-4 ... O Peslier 97
316 (13) 215143 Peregrine Bay (12) (CD) (BF) B McMahon 2-7-13 ... J Quinn 91
317 (15) 11203 Speedy James (28) (D) (BF) J Berry 2-7-13 ... P Fanoy ★ 92

Betting: 7-4 Elnadim, 4-1 Land Of Dreams, 9-2 Ardmillan Hero, 12-1 Bolshoi, Bollin Joanna, Lochangel, Sainte Marine, 25-1 Bishops Court, My Best Valentine, 33-1 Speedy James

FORM GUIDE - Bolshoi: Won King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot by 1¾l from Lochangel, with Sainte Marine another 2l away 5th, Emperoll further nk 6th, Bishops Court 7th, Land Of Dreams, hampered 1f out and inside final furlong, 14th. Bollin Joanna 18th and Averil 19th of 19, 5l, 3l. Elnadim: Mids most, ridden and ran on well final furlong, won by 2l from Tamarisk, with Ardmillan Hero, behind for side until stayed on well finish, also 1st, 3rd, away 4th, Dubai 7th. My Best Valentine 9th, Emperoll 12th, Averil 13th and Bollin Joanna 15th, at Newmarket 6f Gp 1, Fm. Rambling Bear: Led 3f out until well inside final furlong, ch 1l 2nd of 6 behind Tapur Candle, with Danehill Mana 7½l away 5th, at Yarmouth 6f, Gd-Fm. Bollin Joanna: Beat Elnadim (gave 5lb) 3l over 6f here in May, Gd. Land Of Dreams: Good headway to lead over 1f out, hard ridden, ran on strongly, won by 3l from Lady Alexander, with Lochangel, led covers after 1f, came strong side 1f out, slightly hampered close home, another head 3rd, My Best Valentine, finished well, 3l back 4th. Bishops Court back away 5th, at Goodwood 5f Gr 3, Gd. Peregrine Bay: Unable to quicken final furlong, 2l 3rd of 5 behind Light The Racket at Ascot 5f, Gd-Fm. Speedy Jamesa: Led until inside final furlong, 1½l 3rd of 9 behind Aya Lake at Goodwood 5f Gp 3, Gd.

3.45 BRADFORD & BINGLEY RATED STAKES HANDICAP (SHOWCASE & TRIFECTA RACE) 1m £26,512 (16 declared) CH4

401 (16) 205120 Lubeg (21) P Walwyn 4-9-7 ... B Raisbeck 85
402 (10) -14118 Steep Play (40) (D) M Johnston 3-9-1 ... D Holland 85
403 (7) 225352 Week-A-Minute (21) (CD) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 ... L Dettori 86
404 (14) 260406 Gulf Shadi (12) (D) E Alston 8-9-11 ... G Lewther 85
405 (9) -03100 Crumpton Hill (12) (D) N Littmoden 6-9-10 ... M Roberts 86
406 (11) 024215 Sugarfoot (12) (D) N Tinkler 4-9-9 ... M J Kinane 85
407 (2) -22212 Generous Rose (28) J Dunlop 3-9-8 ... Pat Eddery ● 98
408 (1.3) 5-2502 Dazzlin Lady (14) P Harris 3-9-8 ... D Fallon 94
409 (1) 155021 High Spirits (14) (D) T Easterby 4-9-7 ... K Darley ★ 87
410 (3) 320330 Night Of Glass (12) (D) J Eyre 5-9-7 ... A Culhane ★ 85
411 (5) 40-304 Rubeon (18) (D) R Akehurst 5-9-7 ... J Fortune 87
412 (13) 030201 Terfkan (12) (D) N Littmoden 6-9-7 ... M Fenton 84
413 (4) 010312 Alnajeeg (4) (CD) (D) M Channon 4-9-7 ... T Quinn 85
414 (12) 100002 Three For A Pound (8) (D) J Glover 4-9-7 ... A McCarthy (3) 82
415 (8) 6H021 Fredbora (15) M Blanshard 3-9-1 ... J Quinn 85
416 (6) 32-36 Astrologer (69) W Muir 3-9-1 ... Martin Dwyer 85

Betting: 5-1 Sugarfoot, 6-1 Generous Rose, 15-2 Gulf Shadi, 10-1 Lubeg, High Spirits, 11-1 Rubeon, 12-1 Week-A-Minute, Crumpton Hill, Dazzlin Lady, Fredbora, Astrologer.
RPR bettings: 5-1 Sugarfoot, 13-2 Generous Rose, 15-2 High Spirits, 8-1 Gulf Shadi, 10-1 Astrologer, 11-1 Rubeon, 12-1 Lubeg, Week-A-Minute, Dazzlin Lady, Fredbora, 14-1 Crumpton Hill.
Tote betting: 5-1 Generous Rose, 11-2 Sugarfoot, 6-1 High Spirits, 9-1 Gulf Shadi, 11-1 Astrologer, 12-1 Fredbora, Lubeg, Rubeon, 14-1 Crumpton Hill, Dazzlin Lady, Night Of Glass, Terfkan, Week-A-Minute.
Lucksmoke betting: 5-1 Sugarfoot, 6-1 Generous Rose, 9-1 Gulf Shadi, High Spirits, 10-1 Astrologer, 11-1 Rubeon, Crumpton Hill, 12-1 Lubeg, Week-A-Minute, Fredbora, 14-1 Terfkan.

FORM GUIDE - Lubeg: Not clear run over 2f out and 1f out, not recover, 7½l 16th of 22 behind For Your Eyes Only at Goodwood 1m handicap, Gd-Sft. Sharp Play: Well held in Dante Derby last time; previously beat Mistosh 10l at Thirsk 1m, Gd-Fm. Week-A-Minute: Always chasing winner, ridden 2f out, no improvement, 5l 2nd of 5 behind Mehtoob at Doncaster 1m, Gd. Sugarfoot: Raced far side, headway 2f out, ran on one pace, 5l 5th of 25 behind Jo Mell, with Crumpton Hill (gave 2lb) 16th, at Ascot 7f heap, Gd-Fm. Generous Rose: Last, hard ridden final furlong, headed last strides, nk 2nd of 10 behind Gypsy Patkan at Goodwood 1m 2f heap, Gd. Dazzlin Lady: In touch, effort over 2f out, stayed on 1½l 2nd of 4 behind Baltic State at Newcastle 7f, Gd. High Spirits: Tracked leaders, ridden to lead 2f out, ran on well, won by 2½l from Colonel Kay at Thirsk 1m heap, Gd. Night Of Glass: Every chance 2f out, soon hard ridden and weakened, 43l 9th of 13 behind Wave Hostage at Hamilton 1m hcap, Gd. Rubeon: In touch, effort entering straight, soon hard ridden, outside to quicken, 1l 4th of 9 behind Mumtaaz at Chester 1m 1f hcap, Gd. Terfkan: Outdistanced to lead inside final furlong, won by 2l from Consort, with Gulf Shadi (gave 10lb) another 6l away 5th, at Newmarket 7f hcap, Fm. Alnajeeg: Tracked leaders, quickened to lead well over 1f out, caught close home, ch hd 2nd of 19 behind Tonight's Prize at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Fredbora: Headway over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, hd 2nd of 11 behind Ethereal at Kempton 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Awarded race. Astrologer: Ran on well final 1f, 2l 6th of 31 bhd Pen-B at Royal Ascot 1m hcap, Gd-Sft.

4.15 MOORESTYLE CONVIVIAL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 6f £14,620 (7 declared)

501 (1) Fearby Cross J Bethell 9-0 ... S Fallon —
502 (6) 4 Mingle (59) B Hills 9-0 ... S Hills 89
503 (5) Present Laughter P Cole 9-0 ... DOBBTFOL —
504 (4) 53 River Tiana (18) I Balding 9-0 ... J Fortune 85
505 (3) 2 Siege (26) Sir M Stoute 9-0 ... Pat Eddery ● 90
506 (7) Shawbury A P O'Brien (IR) 9-0 ... M J Kinane —
507 (2) 3242 Lucmalya (28) B Hanbury 8-9 ... Dean McKeown 85

Betting: 5-4 Shawbury, 9-4 Siege, 7-2 Mingle, 5-1 River Tiana

4.45 GALTRES STAKES Fillies & Mares 1m 4f £18,763 (8 declared)

601 (2) 5-3524 The Faraway Tree (33) G Wragg 4-9-4 ... M Hills ★ 95
602 (6) 14-1 Bridal Element (103) B Hills 3-8-9 ... D Holland 96
603 (7) 6-231 Gamra (15) B Hills 3-8-9 ... S Sanders 94
604 (5) 412 Kadaka (33) L Cumani 3-8-9 ... L Dettori 97
605 (8) 461 Mattiacca (21) A P O'Brien (IR) 3-8-9 ... M J Kinane 95
606 (1) 2-2330 Rambling Rose (18) Sir M Stoute 3-8-9 ... Pat Eddery ● 98
607 (3) 311 Scarlite (10) H Cecil 3-8-9 ... K Fallon 95
608 (4) 01-2 Trigger Happy (103) M Johnston 3-8-9 ... J Carroll 95

Betting: 7-4 Kadaka, 4-1 Scarlite, 11-2 Bridal Element, 6-1 Rambling Rose, 13-2 Trigger Happy, 7-1 Mattiacca

5.15 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION CITY OF YORK STAKES 7f £17,950 (8 declared)

701 (6) 12-100 Bold Fact (42) (D) H Cecil 3-9-0 ... D Fallon 89
702 (1) 010053 Endless Parade (19) A Farley 3-9-0 ... S Cochrane ★ 85
703 (2) 402301 Jo Mell (12) (D) (D) T Easterby 5-9-0 ... K Darley 86
704 (4) -24020 Kazzaff (12) E Dunlop 4-9-0 ... S Hills 87
705 (3) 500034 Orange Blossom (4) D Haydn Jones 3-8-4 ... A Mackay 84
706 (5) 2-6112 Rampari (17) (BF) A P O'Brien (IR) 3-8-4 ... M J Kinane ● 95

Betting: 2-1 Bold Fact, 3-1 Jo Mell, Rampari, 6-1 Kazzaff, Orange Blossom, 10-1 Endless Parade.

Salisbury

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.15	Holt Navigator	Mrs Malaprop
2.45	Victory Spin	Sports Road
3.20	Wahj	Wahj
3.55	Paradise Navy	Zibeth
4.25	Ben Gunn (nap)	Zara
4.55	Short	Short

Right-handed loop course for races of 1¼m plus. Run-in of 71 forms part of nearly straight mile.
Going: Good to firm, firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: No advantage.
Seven day winners: 3.55 Zibeth.
Blinkered first time: 2.45 Co Ed Be; 4.55 Dodo. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.15 AXMINSTER 100 APPRENTICES' HANDICAP 6f £2,183 (13 declared)

1 (10) 3-23 Holt Navigator (28) M Bell 3-9-10 ... C Carver (7) 82
2 (5) 465005 Sir Joey (53) P Murphy 9-9-9 ... N Weston 85
3 (9) 052003 Bold Hunter (11) (D) Mrs P Dutfield 4-9-7 ... Lisa Stevens (10) ★ 85
4 (11) -06000 Lady Charlotte (26) (D) D Elsworth 3-9-6 ... B Pollard (3) —
5 (4) 6400-5 Emulsit Profile (12) J Pearson 4-9-4 ... R Studholme —
6 (4) 060020 Miss (13) (BF) Mrs P Dutfield 3-9-2 ... D McGaffin (3) 85
7 (7) 002020 Mrs Malaprop (7) (BF) M Channon 3-8-12 ... P Cleary (5) ● 86
8 (1) 000325 Rainbow Rain (14) S Dow 4-8-11 ... P Doe (3) 85
9 (2) 206003 Heavenly Miss (8) (D) J Bridger 4-8-9 ... Jo Kennedy 85
10 (12) -00404 Silver Barrow (10) A Newcombe 5-8-1 ... S Dawson (3) 85
11 (13) -05064 Velvet Jones (8) G Charles-Jones 5-7-10 ... L Newman (7) 81
12 (6) 300633 Fire Goddess (3) J S Moore 3-7-10 ... P Fitzsimons (5) 82
13 (8) 500466 Friendly Brave (3) (D) Miss S Kellaway 8-7-10 ... C Rogers (5) ★ 82

Betting: 9-2 Bliss, 6-1 Heavenly Miss, 7-1 Rainbow Rain, Fire Goddess, 8-1 Bold Hunter, Mrs Malaprop, Silver Barrow, 12-1 Sir Joey

2.45 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO 6f £3,779 (17 declared)

1 (10) 00 Bill Storm (8) K McAuliffe 8-12 ... S Carter —
2 (3) 05 Picasso's Heritage (7) M Pipe 8-12 ... S Hughes —
3 (6) Clonsudversking M Pipe 8-9 ... F Lynch —
4 (14) Inland Bonds D Elsworth 8-9 ... B Pollard (3) —
5 (11) 005306 Co Ed Be (15) M A Buckley 8-7 ... J Stack ★ 84
6 (2) 6222 Sports Road (14) R Hannon 8-7 ... Dane O'Neill ● 90
7 (15) Victory Spin L Cumani 8-7 ... S Finnich —
8 (13) Conquistadorwindy B Meehan 8-5 ... S Perham —
9 (7) 00 Saint George (9) G Balding 8-5 ... S Drowne —
10 (1.7) 0 Dancing Queen (8) Lord Huntingdon 8-4 ... D O'Donohoe 85
11 (4) 0000 Fairfield Way (9) Mrs P Dutfield 8-3 ... A Clark —
12 (1) 06 Carousal (6) R Hannon 8-3 ... W Ryan —
13 (1.3) 4 Sea-Bells (38) A Jones 8-2 ... D Sweeney 86
14 (12) Bobs Queenmaid A Newcombe 8-0 ... R Mullen (3) —
15 (5) 00 Who Goes There (15) T M Jones 8-0 ... S Carlisle —
16 (9) 00 Windsharers (15) H Harrison 8-0 ... C Rutter —
17 (8) Pachinko M Ryan 7-12 ... M Baird (3) —

Betting: 7-4 Sports Road, 7-2 Sea-Bells, 8-1 Victory Spin, 10-1 Picasso's Heritage, 12-1 Dancing Queen, Carousal, 14-1 Inland Bonds, 16-1 Hot Stuff

3.20 WHITCHURCH CONDITIONS STAKES 1m £4,826 (4 declared)

1 (4) 111-66 Crimson Tide (65) (D) J Hills 4-9-9 ... Dane O'Neill 89
2 (2) -40413 Soviet Bureau (16) (D) (D) Miss G Kelleway 3-9-4 ... S Sanders 86
3 (3) 1 Wahj (17) (D) Sir M Stoute 3-8-11 ... G Carter ● 95
4 (1) 1-0 Ziya (108) S bin Suroor 3-8-7 ... D O'Donohoe 87

Betting: 7-4 Wahj, 5-2 Ziya, 7-2 Crimson Tide, 4-1 Soviet Bureau

3.55 HEINEKEN HANDICAP 1m 6f £2,965 (14 declared)

1 (5) 0-3302 Arctic Fancy (20) (D) J G Smyth-Osbourne 5-10-0 ... S Perham 95
2 (8) 313204 Paradise Navy (13) (D) C Egerton 9-9-11 ... Lisanne Masterson (7) ★ 87
3 (7) 0-5600 Another Night (18) P Murphy 4-9-9 ... S Drowne —
4 (4) 412315 Sadler's Rizza (12) (D) P Harris 4-9-8 ... S Sanders ★ 96
5 (9) 051240 Jane Shrine (28) (BF) F Eccles 7-9-5 ... Dane O'Neill ★ 89
6 (13) 1011-0 Last Laugh (29) (D) P Hobbs 5-9-4 ... S Dady-Sundelson (7) 92
7 (10) 0-5531 Monument (15) (D) J Ring 5-9-3 ... S Hevlin (3) 87
8 (1) -22152 Mystagogue (15) A Hamrod 3-8-11 ... S Hughes 85
9 (2) 003121 Zibeth (7) (Bib wg) S Dow 4-8-9 ... P Doe (5) ● 90
10 (12) 000 Gi Blues (17) R Simpson 3-8-6 ... M Gallagher —
11 (3) -02340 Berkshire Dancer (14) Simon Earle 4-7-13 ... C Rutter —
12 (14) 0-6006 Brunello (67) M Bastiman 4-7-12 ... S Carlisle —
13 (11) 040001 Shamaka (28) S Woodman 6-7-10 ... B Pollard (5) 86
14 (6) 250604 Keepsake (8) (D) M Usher 4-7-10 ... S Street 83

Betting: 9-2 Zibeth, 11-2 Monument, 6-1 Arctic Fancy, 13-2 Jane Shrine, 7-1 Paradise Navy, 8-1 Sadler's Rizza, Mystagogue, 12-1 Keepsake, Last Laugh

4.25 LAVERSTOCK HANDICAP 1m £4,553 (15 declared)

1 (8) 045110 Amber Fort (34) (BF) D Elsworth 5-10-8 ... B Pollard (3) ★ 87
2 (7) 11-405 Derryquin (13) (D) R Charlton 3-9-10 ... D Allen (7) 96
3 (11) 612103 Bee Gees (28) (CD) P Walwyn 6-9-10 ... Dane O'Neill 95
4 (10) 2-4620 Night Flyer (65) J Hills 3-9-9 ... P Clarke (7) 93
5 (12) 003406 Salley Ann (24) (D) B Hanbury 7-9-2 ... A Clark 85
6 (1.4) 04205 Stance Cat (13) K McAuliffe 3-8-13 ... S Carter 84
7 (5) 040-20 Moyasser (54) P Makin 3-8-11 ... S Sanders 85
8 (4) 435331 Zara (8) (D) J R Poulton 5-8-10 ... P Dobbs (7) ● 90
9 (2) 0-2110 Sunrise Starter (15) (D) (BF) Mrs L Stubbs 5-8-9 ... D Sweeney 85
10 (6) 050145 Pride Of My Heart (28) (C) I Balding 3-8-7 ... S Whitworth 85
11 (1) 521421 Warning (30) (BF) (D) M Saunders 4-8-6 ... S Price 87
12 (13) 5-6042 Bosh Alaska (13) G Balding 3-8-4 ... S Drowne 84
13 (3) 000204 Shining Cloud (17) M Bell 5-8-1 ... S Mulvey (3) 84
14 (9) 40-653 Sandicliffe (12) (D) J Toller 5-8-0 ... M Fenwick 85
15 (15) F15010 May Queen Megan (39) (D) Mrs A King 5-7-12 ... A Daly (3) 83

Betting: 11-2 Bee Gees, 6-1 Warning, Amber Fort, 7-1 Zara, 8-1 Sunrise Starter, 10-1 Pride Of My Heart, Sandicliffe, 12-1 Shining Cloud, Salley Ann

4.55 BROAD CHALKE MAIDEN STAKES 3YO 7f £3,501 (11 declared)

1 (2) 22 Dolomnan (12) B Meehan 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 86
2 (1) 5444 Parting Echo (19) J Toller 9-0 ... S Sanders 82
3 (6) Precious Years R Simpson 9-0 ... M Gallagher —
4 (10) 233- Short (307) J Gosden 9-0 ... S Blatt ● 90
5 (7) 230220 Splendid Isolation (28) L Cumani 9-0 ... S Finnich 88
6 (5) 0 Thaiyer (128) K Bell 9-0 ... W J O'Connor 82
7 (1) 0430-5 Dancing Wolf (13) A McNae 8-9 ... F Lynch 85
8 (8) 003300 Dodo (13) D Elsworth 8-9 ... A Daly (3) ★ —
9 (9) 5-3006 Rosie (18) J Hills 8-9 ... A Clark 86
10 (3) 0-4 Honey Saddle (11) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 ... S Drowne 81
11 (3) -02042 Silver Sun (13) D Elsworth 8-9 ... B Pollard (5) 85

Betting: 5-2 Splendid Isolation, 9-2 Short, 5-1 Dolomnan, Silver Sun, 8-1 Rosie, 10-1 Parting Echo, Dodo

Yarmouth

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.25	Make Ready	Tancred Times
2.55	Alhasad	Alhasad
3.30	Drive Assured	Elbanze
4.05	Children's Choice	Saint Albert
4.35	Light Step	Light Step
5.05	Shakra Wa Jaah	Shakra Wa Jaah

Left-handed, oval track of 1m5f with 5f run-in. Straight mile.
Going: Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best up to 1m.
Seven day winners: 4.05 Nosey Native.
Blinkered or visored first time: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.25 BUNGAY FILLIES' HANDICAP 6f £3,158 (12 declared)

1 (10) 055206 Signs And Wonders (8) C Cyzer 4-10-4 ... D Biggs 87
2 (2) -00303 Sabischa (12) C Brittain 3-9-10 ... M Henry ★ 84
3 (1) 4-0500 High Rain (10) P Howling 3-9-8 ... Paul Eddery —
4 (2) 360 Longwood Lady (27) S Woods 3-9-8 ... J Tate 84
5 (3) 030240 Margaret (15) G Wragg 3-9-6 ... B Raffoul ★ 85
6 (4) 340512 Tancred Times (18) (D) (BF) D Barker 3-9-6 ... T Williams ● 90
7 (11) 013016 Sunset Harbour (8) S Kettlewell 5-8-12 ... A Nicholls (5) 96
8 (6) 00-4 College Rose (16) S C Williams 5-8-2 ... B Williams (7) —
9 (12) 000000 Make Ready (8) J Neville 4-7-13 ... A Polli (5) 86
10 (7) 430200 Marine Street (8) P Evans 5-7-12 ... J F Egan ★ 85
11 (9) -00030 L A Touch (12) (D) J J Quinn 5-7-10 ... D Mernagh (7) 85
12 (5) 000000 Pathaea (20) H Byroff 5-7-10 ... F Norton —

Betting: 7-2 Margaret, 5-1 Tancred Times, 11-2 Sunset Harbour, 13-2 Signs And Wonders, 7-1 Marine Street, 8-1 Sabischa, 10-1 Make Ready, L A Touch, 12-1 High Rain

2.55 EBF WAXHAM MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 6f £3,688 (7 declared)

1 (3) 2 Alhasad (15) A Stewart 9-0 ... 7 G McLaughlin ● 96
2 (5) 0 Ligne Gagnante (16) W Haggas 9-0 ... J F Egan —
3 (1) 0 Lunare (20

Football

Hoddle rounds on Venables

Martin Thorpe

GLENN HODDLE has hit out at his predecessor Terry Venables for allegedly still coveting the job of England coach.

This latest revelation from Hoddle's World Cup diary, which is published today, follows extracts in the Sun which included controversially graphic details of his meeting with Paul Gascoigne before the World Cup finals.

In his role as an ITV World Cup pundit, Venables often disagreed with Hoddle's tactics and criticised him for leaving Gascoigne out of the squad.

"A few things he's said about England since I took over have irritated me," Hoddle says in the book. "Bobby Robson took the time to call me and say he was right behind me, that he'd give me all the support he could. As for Terry ... I wasn't sure. I think it has been difficult for Terry during the two years I have been head coach. I'm sure he feels he should still be in the job."

In fact, Venables recently did state that, if the England job were to become vacant again, he would be interested in returning to the post.

Of the penalty miss which ended England's World Cup hopes this summer, Hoddle says: "Suddenly everything stopped. I was totally shocked. I had been so, so convinced that we were going to win."

But, although the book contains a description of the Gascoigne meeting, Hoddle is less forthcoming on other matters. For instance, he explains in detail how difficult it was telling the likes of Phil Neville and Dion Dublin that they were excluded from his final 22-man squad but fails to shed any light on the reasons for his decisions.

The book contains many plugs for the faith healer Eileen Drewery, although yesterday Hoddle's solicitor issued a statement insisting that his client would not profit in any way from his business involvement with her.

The England coach has been accused of a conflict of interest in continually publicising Drewery's contribution to the England squad while himself being a director of her proposed venture, the Lychgate Sanctuary.

But Hoddle's solicitor Peter Baines said: "The Lychgate Sanctuary Ltd is a charity set up with the object of relieving physical and mental suffering and combating drug dependency. Glenn Hoddle has agreed to lend his name to the project by becoming a non-executive director and trustee. And as such he is not permitted, nor has he sought, to receive any benefit in money or in kind from the charity."

The £400,000 venture is not yet a charity because the Charity Commissioners are still investigating whether to grant it such status.

One of the company's objects is "the relief and healing of patients suffering from physical, mental and spiritual disorders" and the commission is seeking clarification on what exactly is meant by "spiritual disorders" and also how Drewery is proposing to carry out her work.

Back in business ... Zinedine Zidane, who scored two of France's three goals as they beat Brazil in the World Cup final 38 days ago, holds off the challenge of Austria's Roman Mählich during their 2-2 friendly draw in Vienna last night when Aimé Jacquet's replacement Roger Lemerre took charge as coach for the first time PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT ZOLLES

European Athletics Championships

Duncan Mackay on a charge by Brown that a 10,000m rival used a banned booster

Briton fuels drugs row

ANTONIO PINTO, the European 10,000 metras champion, found the spike on the other foot last night when he was accused by Britain's Jon Brown of using banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Brown, fourth in the race on Tuesday, alleged the Portuguese runner was taking erythropoietin (EPO) — the same blood-boosting substance that Pinto had accused Spain's world marathon champion Abel Anton of using on the eve of this year's London Marathon.

"I was really third," said Brown. "Everybody knows what's going on. The guy is not going to test positive so there's nothing I can do about it."

EPO is the drug which rocked the Tour de France last month. It boosts endurance by increasing the number of red blood cells but cannot be effectively detected because it is a naturally produced substance.

In April Pinto had expressed concerns about Anton's progress. "I am very suspicious of Anton's methods," Pinto said then. "He has made progress very quickly."

Pinto denied Brown's accusation. "My conscience is very clear," he said.

Brown, who may be hit financially by missing out on a medal, added: "There is a big difference between finishing third and fourth and I am sure I am going to find that out in the next 12 months."

A happier British athlete last night was Solomon Wariso after he narrowly escaped suffering a humiliating exit in the first round of the 400m. Wariso, whose selection ahead of the two-times champion Roger Black caused controversy, qualified only as a fastest loser for an event where Britain are expected to sweep the medals.

As Black, now retired, watched from the BBC TV studio, Wariso showed a lack of wisdom at the distance as he got his first-round heat terribly wrong. He was comfortably placed among the three automatic qualifiers with 100m left but down the home straight he started looking round, lost momentum, was overhauled and finished fourth. He had to wait anxiously before finding out that his 46.27sec qualified him for today's semi-final as a fastest loser. "If I had gone out in the first round I couldn't have shown my face in Britain again," said Wariso.

Pinto ... winner accused

Max Jones, Britain's chief selector and performance director, must have missed a few heartbeats as Wariso slipped out of an automatic qualifying position. When the runner arrived in the team hotel on Saturday he greeted Jones by saying: "Don't worry, Max. I'll be doing my best because I read in the Sun that your job is on the line if I don't get a medal here."

Iwan Thomas, the British record holder, and the gold medal favourite Mark Richardson had no problems in their heats which they won in 45.44 and 46.05 respectively.

● The Spanish Olympic Committee yesterday called for the resignation of Prince Alexandre de Merode, president of the IOC medical commission, over his reported comments that Spanish doctors had been lax in their approach to doping.

● The second part of a urine sample from the United States sprinter Dennis Mitchell, taken on April 1, has tested positive for excessive testosterone.

No go for Flo

Russell Thomas

CHELSEA's chief executive Colin Hutchinson yesterday treated the idea of an exchange of Tore Andre Flo and Pierre van Hooijdonk with the disdain that the renegade Dutch striker has shown for Nottingham Forest.

Hutchinson said his club had no intention of bringing Van Hooijdonk out of his soccer limbo in Holland, describing a projected swap of strikers as "nonsense".

Forest's manager Dave Bassett had earlier reportedly said: "Flo is a player I admire greatly and he would have been an ideal replacement for Van Hooijdonk. Unfortunately, Chelsea weren't interested in taking Pierre."

But Hutchinson insisted that Flo, "is not for sale" and that Bassett "never proposed to Chelsea a Van Hooijdonk exchange", although he had asked last Saturday about player availability at Stamford Bridge but that "no names were mentioned".

Hutchinson also condemned as "absolute garbage" talk of a £2.5 million offer by Forest for Michael Duberry. The defender, too, was not available and, even if he were, said Hutchinson, "£2.5 million in today's market is laughable".

The Romanian defender Dan Petrescu, who will be allowed to leave, has seen any hopes of joining Ajax dashed. Hutchinson confirmed that the Dutch champions, after making an inquiry, "will not be proceeding with a bid".

Coventry yesterday completed the £3.15 million sale of Robert Jarni to Real Madrid, showing a £550,000 profit on the Croatian player who never kicked a ball for the Premiership club.

Earlier this month Jarni become a Coventry player when he visited Highfield Road and Coventry paid £2.6 million to his previous club Real Betis. But Jarni changed his mind on returning to Spain.

David Beckham's visit to Upton Park on Saturday will see extra police deployed inside and outside Upton Park amid expectations of a fan backlash against the Manchester United player's sending-off in France 98.

Worthington Cup first round, second leg: Stoke City 1 Macclesfield 0 (agg: 2–3)

Thorne snag fails to unravel Silkmen.

Derek Potter

A GOAL from Peter Thorne 12 minutes from time following a slip by Efetobore Sodje failed to save Stoke from a first-round exit for the first time since the competition was introduced as the League Cup 38 years ago.

Stoke's last chance of salvation came in the final minute, but the Silkmen'e goalkeeper Ryan Price held on to a desperate shot from David Oldfield.

Three games between the same teams in eight days tends to test the patience. After winning 2-0 in the league on Saturday, Stoke needed to begin where they left off if they were to reach the second round.

Though Macclesfield have begun their campaign in the Second Division with two successive defeats, they had overpowered Stoke in the first leg, winning 3-1. That result left both managers in a tactical tizzy.

Brian Little of Stoke urged patience; Sammy McIlroy, once a Stoke player, indicated that Macclesfield would seek to increase their advantage. The immediate effect was long spells of indifferent sparring and an edginess in Stoke.

Much of the defending by both teams was encouraging for would-be strikers. Stuart Whittaker wasted one chance before John Askey, son of Colin who graced the Port Vale team that reached the FA Cup semi-final in 1954, came close to scoring a goal worthy of a Wembley setting. An acrobatic overhead lunge at Darren Tinson's cross sent the ball encouragingly near to the target.

The escape inspired Stoke. Thorne headed over when he should have taken better advantage of a cross by Bryan Small, and Oldfield powered through but his shot was blocked.

Askey, Macclesfield's lone spearhead, was cautioned for a rash tackle shortly before half-time, with Stoke posing an increasing number of problems for the visitors' defence. There was never a major gulf of class between the teams, though. Both had long, mundane spells and the size of the Stoke task increased after 55 minutes. Graham Kavanagh was sent off for a second bookable offence and Martin McDonald, his opponent in the skirmish, was cautioned.

Whittaker made several promising runs; Sodje was less subtle, once hoofing a huge clearance halfway up the sizeable Sentinel Stand to end a Stoke attack, but both goalkeepers were dealing confidently with their modest workloads.

Stoke City (5-3-2): Muggleton; Short (Tweed, 77min), Whittle, Robinson, Woods, Small (Wallace, 60); Pickering, Kavanagh, Oldfield; Thorne, Crowe (Sturridge, 67).

Macclesfield Town *(4-5-1):* Price; Tinson, Sodje, Payne, Ingram; Durkan, Wood, Sorvel, McDonald, Whittaker; Askey (Tomlinson, 81).

Referee: O Pugh (Wirral).

Little ... patience sought

Results from Budapest

MEN

100m Final: 1, D Campbell (GB) 10.04sec; 2, D Chambers (GB) 10.10; 3, H Papadias (Gr) 10.17; 5, M Devonish (GB) 10.24.

400m First round (qualifiers for semi-finals): **Heat 1:** 1, T Czubak (Pol) 45.39sec; 2, O Golovastov (Rus) 45.15; 3, J Podebradsky (Cz) 46.16; 4, S Wariso (GB) 46.27; 5, M Lopuchovsky (Slovak) 46.49. **Heat 2:** 1, D Canet (Sp) 45.20; 2, I Thomas (GB) 45.44; 3, M Foucan (Fr) 45.59. **Heat 3:** 1, R Mackowiak (Pol) 46.17; 2, M Vaccari (It) 45.80; 3, I Zharov (Rus) 46.73. **Heat 4:** 1, M Richardson (GB) 46.05; 2, P Haczek (Pol) 46.26; 3, P-M Hilaire (Fr) 46.27; 4, A Andres (Sp) 46.27; 5, K Kamaris (Gr) 45.39.

400m hurdles Semi-finals Heat 1: 1, R Maslchenko (Rus) 48.64sec; 2, C Silva (Por) 48.98; 3, L Otlov (It) 49.08; 4, J Muzik (Cz) 49.39; 6, P Gray (GB) 50.34. **Heat 2:** 1, P Januszewski (Pol) 48.80; 2, V Zadoinov (Mol) 49.26; 3, F Mori (It) 49.34; 4, V Shiriayev (Rus) 49.56.

High Jump Qualifying Group A: 1=, O Topic (Yug), T Janku (Cz); S Strand (Swe), A Partyka (Pol), M Buss (Ger) 2.24; 6, O Kokotis (Gr) 2.24; 7, D Grant (GB) 2.24. **Group B:** 1, S Hoen (Nor) 2.24; 2, S Holm (Swe) 2.24; 3, B Kiyagin (Rus) 2.24; 4, C Rhoden (Ger) 2.24; 5, B Reilly (GB) 2.24.

Long Jump Final: 1, K Sounov (Rus) 8.28m; 2, B Tarus (Rom) 8.21; 3, P Dachev (Bul) 8.05.

Decathlon: 100m Heat 1: 1, E Nool (Est) 10.58sec; 2, J A Magnusson (Ice) 10.60; 3, P Korkizoglou (Gr) 10.77; 4, T Dvorak (Cz) 10.77; 5, E Hamalainen (Fin) 10.87; 6, S Schiil (Ger) 10.92; 7, J Benet (Sp) 11.17. **Heat 2:** 1, L Lobodin (Rus) 10.56; 2, R Sebrle (Cz) 10.73; 3, H Dagard (Swe) 10.81; 4, A Yurkov (Ukr) 10.90; 5, J Penas (Sp) 11.18; 6, A Penalver (Sp) 11.18; 7, G Blouin (Fr) 11.21. **Heat 3:** 1, D Szabo (Hun) 10.85; 2, P Huber (Switz) 10.94; 3, W Boulineau (Fr) 11.04; 4, R Schlatt (Switz) 11.10; 5, Z Kuerzsi (Hun) 11.19; 6, B Chmara (Pol) 11.19. **Heat 4:** 1, O Andreou (Cyp) 10.93; 2, K Isekenmeier (Ger) 11.03; 3, M Maczey (Ger) 11.16; 4, J Rosendaal (Neth) 11.19; 5, S Levicq (Fr) 11.21; 6, A Zalvotzky (Hun) 11.27. **Long Jump Group A:** 1, T Nool 7.80m; 2, Chmara 7.65; 3, Dvorak 7.61; 4, Sebrle 7.60; 5, Szabo 7.58; 6, Yurkov 7.47; 7, Lobodin 7.42; 8, Isekenmeier 7.42; 9, Magnusson 7.38; 10, Schlatt 7.28; 11, Huber 7.12; 12, Penas 7.05; 13, Penalver 7.02. **Ba Group B:** 1, Hamalainen 7.44; 2, Maczey 7.29; 3, Kuerzsi 7.26; 4, Boulineau 7.20; 5, Benet 7.12; 6, Blouin 7.04; 7, Korkizoglou 7.03; 8, Rosendaal 7.02; 9, Schlatt 6.94; 10, Dagard 6.86; 11, Levicq 6.86; 12, Andreou 6.80. **Shot Group A:** 1, Penalver 16.18; 2, Hamalainen 16.04; 3, Magnusson 15.03; 4, Dvorak 15.87; 5, Lobodin 15.67; 6, Chmara 15.46; 7, Penas 15.31; 8, Isekenmeier 15.22; 9, Schlatt 14.96; 10, Kuerzsi 14.90; 11, Sebrle 14.90; 12, Yurkov 14.58; 13, Dagard 14.26. **Ba:** 1, Levicq 14.77; 2, Schmid 14.73; 3, Huber 14.42; 4, Nool 14.40; 5, Zalvotzky 14.17; 6, Rosendaal 14.06; 7, Maczey 13.77; 8, Szabo 13.72; 9, Korkizoglou 13.54; 10, Benet 13.54; 11, Boulineau 13.07; 12, Andreou 13.03; 13, Blouin 11.46. **High Jump Group A:** 1, Zalvotzky 2.18m; 2, Sebrle 2.09; 3, Chmara 2.09; 4, Blouin 2.06; 5, Rosendaal 2.06; 6, Penas 2.06; 7, Hamalainen 2.06; 8, Kuerzsi 2.06; 9, Boulineau 2.03; 10, Yurkov 2.03; 11, Magnusson 1.97; 12, Schmid 1.91. **Ba:** 1, Maczey 2.06; 2, Lobodin 2.03; 3, Szabo 2.03; 4, Nool 1.97; 5, Korkizogiou 1.97; 6, Dvorak 1.97; 7, Andreou 1.94; 8, Levicq 1.94; 9, Dagard 1.94; 10, Schlatt 1.94; 11, Benet 1.91; 12, Huber 1.85; 13, Isekenmeier 1.79. **400m Heat 1:** 1, Magnusson 46.94sec; 2, Nool 46.67; 3, Hamalainen 46.86; 4, Huber 47.87; 5, Dagard 47.87; 6, Dvorak 48.11; 7, Szabo 48.13. **Heat 2:** 1, Chmara 47.76; 2, Schlatt 48.11; 3, Isekenmeier 48.28; 4, Schmid 48.45; 5, Benet 48.52; 6, Lobodin 48.85. **Heat 3:** 1, Sebrle 48.28; 2, Yurkov 48.55; 3, Boulineau 49.55; 4, Zalvotzky 49.62; 5, Blouin 49.77. **Heat 4:** 1, Kuerzsi 49.07; 2, Maczey 49.82; 3, Penas 50.41; 4, Rosendaal 50.43; 5, Levicq 51.45. **Standings** (after five events): 1, Hamalainen 4,484pts; 2, Magnusson 4,473; 3, Nool 4,470; 4, Sebrle 4,449; 5, Chmara 4,418; 6, Dvorak 4,397; 7, Lobodin 4,383; 8, Szabo 4,294; 9, Yurkov 4,237; 10, Kuerzsi 4,168; 11, Schmid 4,137; 12, Penas 4,111; 13, Maczey 4,104; 14, Dagard 4,088; 15, Isekenmeier 4,088; 16, Schlatt 4,077; 17, Zalvotzky 4,056; 18, Huber 4,055; 19, Boulineau 4,052; 20, Rosendaal 4,022; 21, Benet 3,987; 22, Blouin 3,885; 23, Levicq 3,868.

Pole Vault Qualifying (5.75m or first 12 qualify for final): **Group A:** 1 J Galfione (Fr) 5.60m; 2=, V Shuteyev (Ukr), T Lobinger (Ger) 5.60; 4, C Tammainga (Neth) 5.45; 5, K Kusiak (Pol) 5.45; 6=, P Stenlund (Swe), T Barthel (Nor) 5.45. **Ba 1=:** O Ecker (Ger), M Tarasov (Rus) 5.60; 3, L Leolie (Neth) 5.60; 4, A Tiwonschyk (Ger) 5.60; 5 K Lachnab (Fr) 5.60; 6, P Kristiansson (Swe) 5.45; 7, H Vaaraniemi (Fin) 5.45; 8=, J Rovan (Slovan), P Burtchenko (Rus) 5.45.

Hammer Final: 1, T Gecsek (Hun) 82.87m; 2, B Kiss (Hun) 81.28; 3, K Kobs (Ger) 80.13.

WOMEN

100m Final: 1, C Arron (Fr) 10.73sec (European rec); 2, I Privalova (Rus) 10.83; 3, E Thanou (Gr) 10.87.

400m First round Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat 1: 1, U Rothlander (Ger) 52.37; 2, I Roslikina (Rus) 52.87; 3, F Ficher (Fr) 53.05. **Heat 2:** 1, G Breuer (Ger) 51.60; 2, P Spurl (It) 51.82; 3, J Burtanova (Cz) 52.62; 4, O Rukui (Rom) 52.66; 5, Y Kulikova (Rus) 52.83. **Heat 3:** 1, O Kodyarova (Rus) 51.62; 2, D Fraser (GB) 52.20; 3, A Bori (Hun) 52.69; 4, L Jekabsone (Lat) 52.84. **Heat 4:** 1, H Fuchsova (Cz) 51.51; 2, A Curbishley (GB) 52.05; 3, K Shinkins (GB) 52.13; 4, O Rusk (Ukr) 52.48.

800m Semi-finals: Heat 1: 1, L Mikhailova (Rus) 1min 58.33sec; 2, B Graf (Aut) 1.59.50; 3, T Kirilova (Bul) 1.59.77; 4, N Dukhnova (Bela) 1.59.95; 5, O Modahl (GB) 2.00.09. **Heat 2:** 1 E Afanasyeva (Rus) 1.59.22; 2, M Everiot (Swe) 1.59.44; 3, V Szekely (Rom) 1.59.71; 4, H Meissner (Ger) 1.59.92.

10,000m Final: 1, B O'Sullivan (Ire) 31min 29.39sec; 2, F Ribeiro (Por) 31.32.42; 3, L Simon (Rom) 31.32.64; 5, P Radcliffe (GB) 31.35.51.

400m hurdles Semi-finals: Heat 1: 1, S Rieger (Ger) 54.50sec; 2, T Tereshchuk (Ukr) 54.55; 3, E Goosens (Neth) 54.85; 4, P Soderstrom (Fin) 55.23. **Heat 2:** 1, I Tirlea (Rom) 54.88; 2, G Amardottir (Ice) 55.21; 3, U Urbanszki (Ger) 55.93; 4, E Bakhavaleva (Rus) 55.98. **Heat 3:** 1, B Smith (Ire) 55.65; 2, A Knorozova (Rus) 55.88; 3, J Bzskova (Hun) 55.88; 4, O Schmidt (Ger) 56.40; 6, N Danvers (Gbr) 57.19.

Discus Qualifying (63m or first 12 qualify for final): **Group A:** 1, E Zvaseva (Bela) 66.55m; 2, N Grasu (Rom) 64.26; 3, I Wyludda (Ger) 62.97; 4, I Yatchenko (Bela) 61.55; 5, A Kelesidou (Gr) 61.55; 6, B Takiouna (Gr) 61.46. **Group B:** 1, F Dietzsch (Ger) 65.81; 2, N Sadova (Rus) 62.84; 3, A Mollenbeck (Ger) 62.48; 4, E Vogali (Gr) 62.33; 5, Y Antonova (Ukr) 62.17; 6, T Machado (Por) 61.70.

Javelin Final: 1, T Tzamaske (Ger) 69.10m; 2, T Shikolenko (Rus) 66.92; 3, M Ingberg (Fin) 64.92.

Extra ban for pushing the referee means Batty misses six matches

DAVID BATTY has been given a further one-match ban for pushing a referee to add to the five-game suspension he is already serving.

The Newcastle United midfielder was sent off for punching Blackburn's Garry Flitcroft in the final game of last season and received a three-match suspension for violent conduct, plus a further two-game ban as it was his third red card of the season.

He faced a Football Association disciplinary hearing yesterday on a misconduct charge for pushing the referee David Elleray during the match. The FA announced that the case had been proved and he had been banned for a further game and fined £1,500.

The Fifa president Sepp Blatter has warned that the game's structure could be demolished if a Super League is launched.

"The whole basis on which football is built could collapse through a project of this kind," said Blatter, head of the world body.

Cricket

News and Scores, Counties update

0930 16 13 ++

Derbyshire	24	Kent	30	Somerset	36
Durham	25	Lancs	31	Surrey	37
Essex	26	Leics.	32	Sussex	38
Glamorgan	27	Middlesex	33	Warwicks.	39
Gloucs.	28	Northants.	34	Worcester	40
Hampshire	29	Nottingham	35	Yorkshire	41

Complete county scores **0930 16 13 23**

Triangular Tournament Final

England v Sri Lanka

Live Commentary **0930 16 13 21**

Match Reports **0930 16 13 22**

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

Football

WORTHINGTON CUP

First round, second leg

Blue C (4) 7 — **Notts Co** (0) 1
Mason 8, Dickov 16, 58; Torpey 86
Bradbury 21; 10,063
Goater 38, 90; (agg: 9–1)
Whitley 69

Millwall (1) 1 — **Birmingham** (1) 3
Shaw 26; Adebola 45
(agg: 1–3) 4,478

Stoke (0) 1 — **Macclesfield** (0) 0
Thorne 78 8,152
(agg: 2–3)

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Leek CSOB 3 Oldbury NE 0; Ramsbottom Utd 0 Salford C 1; St Helens Tn 1 Vauxhall GM 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE First: Coventry 1 Port Vale 0, Oldham 2 Middlesbro 1, Sheff Wed 1 Barnsley 1; Tranmere 0 Burnley 1, West Brom 3 Grimsby 0. **Seconds:** Blackpool 0 Scarborough 1; Lincoln 1 Bradford C 2; Wrexham 2 Rotherham 0; York 0 Shrewsbury 0. **Thirds:** Bury 2 Wigan 0; Halifax 4 Carlisle 1; Hull 0 Darlington 0; Rochdale 3 Hartlepool 0; Scunthorpe 6 Chester 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Barnet 1 Swindon 5; Bournemouth 2 Gillingham 0; Charlton 2 Norwich 1; Oxford 5 Peterborough 2; Southampton 6 C Palace 2; Watford 4 Cambridge U; Wycombe 0 Portsmouth 1.

FRIENDLIES: Luton XI 1 Kuwait National XI 1; Shelbourne 0 Leeds 3.

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS: Belarus 3 Lithuania 0; Cyprus 3 Albania 2; Cz Rep 1 Denmark 0; Hungary 2 Slovenia 1; Norway 0 Romania 0; Portugal 2 Mozambique 1, Sweden 1 Russia 0; Ukraine 4 Georgia 0.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP (Lome): **Preliminary round:** Togo 2 Sao Tome 0.

Rugby Union

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING (Buenos Aires): **Americas group:** Argentina 56 Uruguay 0.

Rugby League

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE: Auckland 18 Great Britain 20.

ALLIANCE: Salford 16 Halifax 36; St Helens 40 Sheffield 18.

Tennis

ATP RCA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Indianapolis): **First round:** T Muster (Aut) bt P Goldstein (US) 6–2, 6–2; W Ferreira (SA) bt O Nestor (Can) 6–4, 7–6; G Pozzi (It) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 7–6, 6–1; J Novak (Cz) bt X Malisse (Bel) 6–3, 7–5; M Tabbotti (Aus) bt M Sell (US) 7–5, 4–6, 6–0; A Velasco (Rom) bt T Kokala (Fin) 6–2, 6–0; M Larsson (Swe) bt S Brasjean (Fr) 2–6, 7–6, 6–2; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6–7, 6–3, 6–4. **Second round:** M Rios (Chile) bt S Bryan (US) 6–4, 6–4; T Johansson (Swe) bt C Moya (Sp) 6–7, 6–0, 6–1; R Delgado (Par) bt C Pioline (Fr) 7–6, 6–1; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt A Volkov (Rom) 7–6, 6–4; Ferreira bt Novak 7–6, 6–2.

ATP TOURNAMENT (New Haven): **First round:** A O'Brien (US) bt M Mirnyi (Bela) 6–3, 6–4, L Paes (Ind) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6–3, 6–2; R Sargsyan (Ukr) bt J Stark (US) 6–4, 7–5; M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Safin (Rus) 6–4, 7–5; S Bruguera (Sp) bt P McEnroe (US) 7–6, 3–6, 6–3; R Kuerten (Br) bt M Puerta (Arg) 6–3, 6–4; P Santoro (Fr) bt L Arnold (Arg) 1–6, 6–3, 6–1; R Reeves (Fr) bt J Gimelstob (US) 7–5, 6–4. **Second round:** Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6–0, 6–2; T Henman (GB) bt V Santopadre (It) 6–7, 6–3, Rusedski bt J Van Lottum (Neth) 6–3, 6–4; Sargsyan bt Santoro 6–1, 6–7, 7–5; Kuerten bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6–4, 6–2; F Meligeni (Br) bt L Horvath (Aus) 6–1, 7–6; K Kucera (Slovak) bt H Curry (Arg) 6–3, 6–3; B Ivanisevic (Cro) bt G Grant (US) 6–3, 3–6, 6–3; H Levy (Isr) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 6–3, 6–3; J Siemerink (Neth) bt O Van Schepingen (Neth) 6–3, 6–3.

LTA MEN'S MASTERS (Havant): **Quarter-finals:** L Maurer (Switz) bt P Hand (GB) 7–6, 6–3; A Parmar (GB) bt L Milligan (GB) 6–2, 6–2; A Preslova (GB) bt G Elsner (Bel) w/o, M Lee (GB) bt A Clement (Pak) 6–4, 6–4, 6–3.

WTA TOURNAMENT (Montreal): **Second round:** M Seles (US) bt T Snyder (US) 6–2, 6–1; I Spirlea (Rom) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 6–7, 7–6, 6–0; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Habsudova (Slovak) 0–6, 7–5, 6–2; S Farina (It) bt M-J Fernandez (US) 7–5, 6–3; V Spesivtsev (Indo) bt D Van Roost (Bel) 7–6, 6–3; A Huber (Ger) bt F Labat (Arg) 6–2, 6–4.

Golf

MASTERCARD TOUR (Hawksmore Pk, Shropshire): **Leading first-round scores:** 64 R Wragg (Renishaw Pk), 66 S Drummond (Arscott). 66 R Dinsdale (Newport). 67 J Harrison (Ross on Wye); R Hurd (Manor of Groves); M Jones (Bolton Open); A George (Ely City).

BRITISH LADIES STROKEPLAY C'SHIP (Stirling): **Leading first-round scores:** 71 L Walters (Chevin); G Sargus (It); N Nijenhuis (Neth). 72 B Hackett (Castletroy). 73 R Fowler (NZ); S Brewerton (Abergele); B Morgan (Monmouth); N Clau (Sp); K-M Juul (Den); L Mollet (West Kilbride).

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 4 Texas 1 (1st game), Boston 8 Texas 4 (2nd), Oakland 10 Toronto 5; Cleveland 4 Tampa Bay 2; Baltimore 7 Minnesota 1; Kansas City 2 Ny Yankees 3 (13inns); Anaheim 3 Chicago WS 4; Seattle 6 Detroit 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE: NY Mets 6 Colorado 3 (1st game); NY Mets 8 Colorado 3 (2nd), Florida 5 San Diego 7; Pittsburgh 6 Los Angeles 4; Philadelphia 2 Houston 3, Atlanta 8 San Francisco 4, Chicago Cubs 4 St Louis 1; Milwaukee 8 Cincinnati 4; Arizona 1 Montreal 7.

Crown Green Bowls

WATERLOO: Fourth round: C Merrivale (Sale) bt A McGuigan (Stockport) 21–17, M Chapman (Blackburn) bt J Urmson (Blackpool) 21–20; S Channis (Stockport) bt A Bailey (Gwynneth) 21–16; K Whalley (Macclesfield) bt S Ellis (St Annes) 21–12; C Jackson (Macclesfield) bt A Sykes (Mirfield) 21–19; A Fidler (St Asaph) bt G Bailey (Warrington) 21–14; J Carney (Wigan) bt O McClelland (Warrington) 21–17; J Stanway (Stoke) bt A Clemo (Warrington) 21–11; M Inness (Chadsmoor) bt P Iddon (Huyton) 21–18; A Wyles (Huddersfield) bt T Shaw (West Houghton) 21–18.

Bowls

EAN O'SHIPS (Worthing): **Fours: Semi-finals:** Summerhill, Newcastle Tyne (R Train) bt Peddington (J Sweeney) 21–18; Banbury Bar (L Gillett) bt Bolton (G Nixon) 24–15. **Finals:** Banbury Bar (A Price, George Moon, Greg Moon, L Gillett) bt Summerhill, Newcastle Tyne (K Wood, M Bennett, M McGreevy, R Train) 20–13.

Cycling

TOUR OF BURGOS: Third stage (Salas de los Infantes to Arenas de Iguna, 175kms): 1, M Wuss (Ger) Festina 4hr 14min 32sec; 2, B Smolenine (Rus) Vitalicio; 3, A Tchmil (Bel) Lotoboth same time. **Overall:** 1, Otano Shr 18min 31sec; 2, L Jalabert (Fr) Once at 13sec; 3, A Casero (Sp) Vitalicio 25.

TOUR DU LIMOUSIN: Second stage (Aubusson to Vassivieres; 191km): 1, C Malignan (Fr) Mutuelle Seine/Marne 4hr 28min 21sec; 2, V Djavanian (Rus) Big Mat; 3, F Bessy (Fr) Casino both same time. **Overall:** 1, C Rimero (Fr) Colitia 8hr 07min 01sec; 2, Malignan at 1sec; 3, J Durand (Fr) Casino both at.

Hockey

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S U-21 NATIONS CUP: **B Div: Group A:** France 4 Scotland 0; Russia 2 Lithuania 1. **Final standings:** 1, Russia 7; 2, France 6; 3, Scotland 2. **Group B:** Italy 1 Wales 1; Slovakia 0 Poland 4. **Final standings:** 1, Poland 7; 2, Wales 5, 3, Italy 4.

Squash

SINGAPORE OPEN: First round: Mark Heath (Scot) bt A Ricketts (Aus) 15–9, 15–2, 12–3, 15–5; R Durbach (SA) bt M Benjamin (Wales) 15–11, 15–7, 15–9; J Rauwalla (Fin) bt O Tuominen (Fin) 15–8, 15–8, 11–15, 15–4; M Zaman Gul (Pak) bt A Faheem Khan (HK) 15–10, 15–8, 15–7; D Elderkosky (Egy) bt Z Abidin (Sin) 15–8, 15–9, 15–5; D Poetkinen (Fin) bt O Forslund (Swe) 5-15, 15–12, 10–15, 15–11, 15–13. Women: C Fitzgerald (Aus) bt M Li Lian (Sin) 9–3, 9–2, 9–0; K Major (Aus) bt A Naude (SA) 6–9, 9–3, 9–5, 9–6; L Joyce (NZ) bt E Major (Aus) 9–0, 9–2, 9–6; R Cooper (Aus) bt M Zein (Egy) 9–0, 9–0, 9–3; S Wright (Eng) bt J Thacker (Eng) 7–9, 9–4, 9–0, 10–8; N Grainger (SA) bt R Chu (HK) 9–3, 9–3, 9–4; M Martin (Aus) bt S Brind (Eng) 9–7, 10–8, 9–3; J Martin (Eng) bt S Shabana (Egy) 9–3, 9–1, 9–0; L Charman (Eng) bt N Tippett (Aus) 9–3, 9–5, 9–2; J Trasnfield (Eng) bt K Hargreves (Eng) 9–2, 9–1, 9–1; C Jackman (Eng) bt T Bailey (Eng) 9–4, 9–1, 9–2.

Evening Racing

Kempton

5.30 (1m 1f): 1, LATIN BAY, P Bradley (14–1); 2, Inkinkagala (9–1); 3, Twoforten (12–1). 9–4 Fav Wafer Force. 14 ran. N, nk. (P Harris) Tote: £18.20; £4.60, £2.20, £2.80. Dual F: £61.40. CSF: £111.77. Tricast: £1,301.62. **6.00 (6f):** 1, HADLEIGH, R Price (9–2); 2, Maple (5–1); 3, Single Shot (6–1). 3–1 Fav Lady Lacarus. 16 ran. 1, ½. (R Armstrong) Tote: £5.40; £1.90, £2.40, £2.50. Dual F: £15.60. CSF: £25.98. NR: Brave Vision. **6.30 (7f):** 1, HULA ANGEL, M Hills (11–4); 2, Oriental Fashion (6–4 Fav); 3, Dice Dee (25–1). 13 ran. 4, 1½. (B Hills) Tote: £4.00; £1.10, £1.70, £8.80. Dual F: £4.60. CSF: £7.25. NR: Danielle Ridge. **7.00 (1m 4f):** 1, ABSOLUTE UTOPIA, L Dettori (100–30); 2, Double (9–1); 3, Alex High (7–4 Fav). 8 ran. 2½, 2½. (N Berry) Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £2.00, £1.30. Dual F: £24.20. CSF: £31.56. Tricast: £83.18. NR: Pelagos, Tarski. **7.30 (7f):** 1, CROWN OF TRUSS, L Dettori (6–4); 2, Secretary Owl (Evens Fav); 3, Smart Savanah (10–1). 5 ran. Hd, 1½. (D Loder) Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.50. Dual F: £1.60. CSF: £2.78. **8.00 (7f):** 1, MYTTONS RESTAURANT, R Havlin (3–1 Fav); 2, Blossom Miss (33–1); 3, Carlton (11–2); 4, Ellie Lasmeee (5–1). 17 ran. 1, hd. (R Hodges) Tote: £4.20; £2.00, £5.60, £1.80. Dual F: £83.50. CSF: £120.51. Tricast: £516.23.

QUADPOT: £2.40 **PLACEPOT:** £53.90.

Leicester

5.40 (7f 9yds): 1, BOLD TARA, P Dobbs (9–2); 2, Bubbly (7–2 Jt Fav); 3, Precious Princess (13–2). 7–2 Jt Fav Daryabed. 11 ran. 1½, 1½. (R Hannon) Tote: £9.20; £1.50, £1.30, £3.20. Dual F: £8.50. CSF: £17.78. **6.10 (6f 21yds):** 1, INDIAN CITY, R Cochrane (13–8 Fav); 2, Light On The Water (9–1); 3, Gamblers Lane (20–1). 14 ran. 2, 1. (R Guest) Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £3.50, £9.10. Dual F: £18.70. CSF: £16.51. **6.40 (6f 2yds):** 1, PRINCESS NATALIE, N Callan (7–1); 2, Mukarrab (10–1); 3, Sebastian (Ire) (9–2 Fav); 4, Indiscreet (12–1). 22 ran. Hd, 1. (M Jarvis) Tote: £12.00; £3.20, £2.90, £1.80. Dual F: £118.10. CSF: £72.22. Tricast: £340.88. **7.10 (1m 3f 183yds):** 1, MONO LADY, A Mackay (16–1); 2, City Gambler (8–1); 3, Lady Rachel (5–1). 11–

هكذا من الاصل

Cricket

Championship: Durham v Lancashire

Rescue act guided by Ridgway

Andy Wilson at Riverside

LANCASHIRE are proving the comeback kings of this championship race. On Monday they took seven wickets in the last session to beat Yorkshire and yesterday they recovered here from the unpromising situation of 80 for seven to selze the high ground against Durham by the end of the first day.

They resume today at 23 for one in their second innings, 61 ahead, with Nick Speak unlikely to bat against his former county after suffering a groin injury.

The umpires automatically reported the pitch to Lord's after 20 wickets fell in the day but no further action will be taken because it is not dangerous and certainly no more helpful to bowlers than the batsman were yesterday: there were some awful shots.

Wasim Akram and Paul Ridgway were Lancashire's key figures, with both bat and ball. Wasim, suffering from a sore toe, hit his first championship half-century of the summer from 44 balls, justifying his decision to bat first.

Yet, when Glen Chapple was bowled shortly afterwards by Steve Lugsden, Wasim was running out of partners with his team 111 for eight. Enter Ridgway, a 21-year-old making his first appearance in the absence of Ian Austin and Peter Martin.

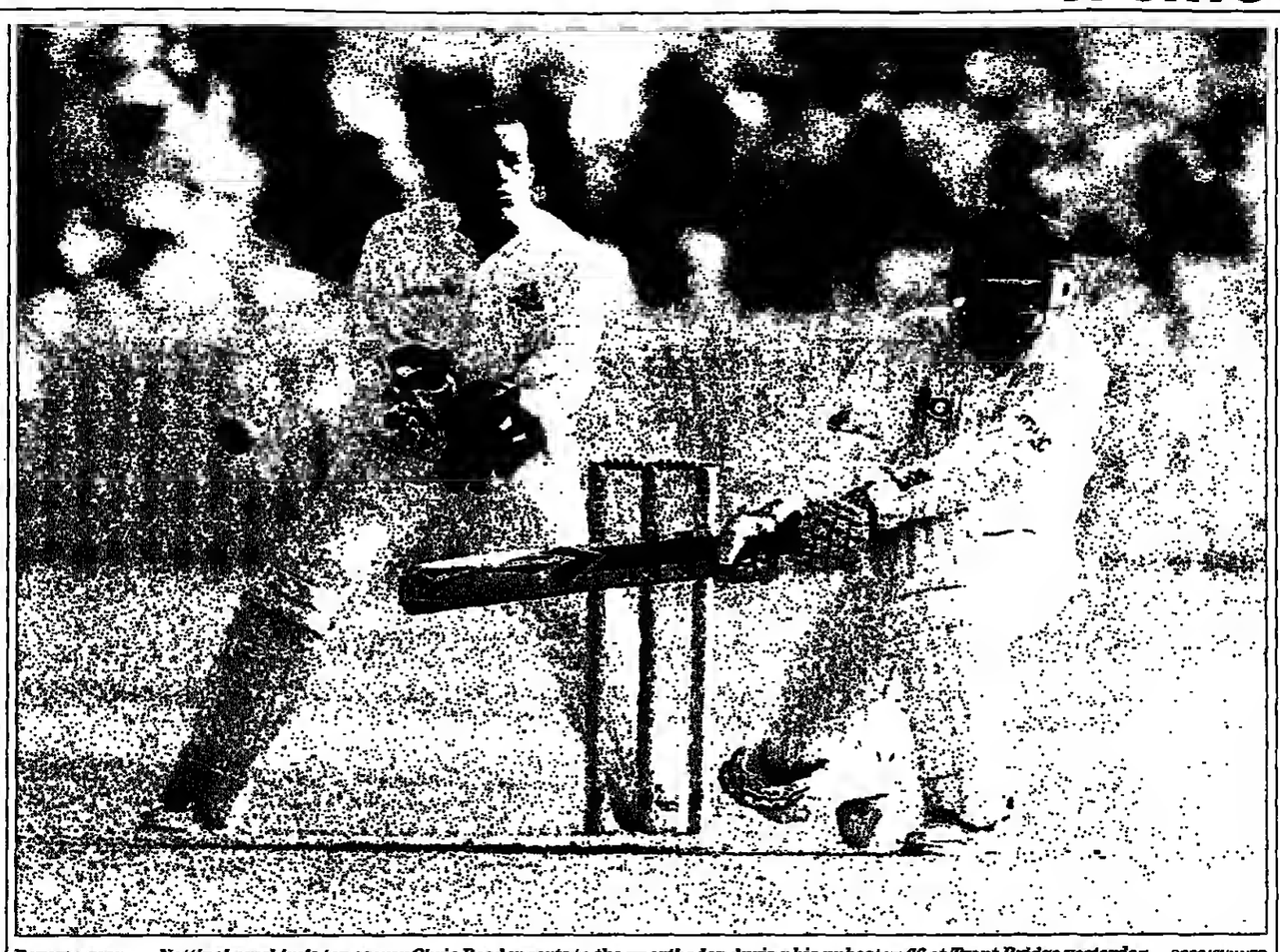
He was also hit three times, ducking into short deliveries, but reacted in the manner one would expect of a 6ft 4in, 16-stone-plus former dump-truck driver whose father played amateur rugby league.

He supported Wasim admirably in a ninth-wicket partnership of 67, then greeted the return of Neil Killeen by pulling his first ball for six. Unfortunately his attemptad repeat off the next ball flew straight up in the air, John Morris taking a catch at mid-on with Lancashire four runs short of a batting bonus point.

That gave Killeen career-best figures of five for 49. He moved the ball both ways and his victims included John Crawley, for his second single-figure score in 16 championship innings, and Neil Fairbrother for a second consecutive golden duck.

However, Durham were soon tumbling to Wasim, who took the first three wickets. Then Ridgway broke a fourth-wicket partnership on 72 when Paul Collingwood slashed loosely, and added his fourth and fifth championship wickets in a wholehearted post-tea spell.

Chapple picked up the last three wickets to leave Jon Lewis unbeaten on an excellent 70, the second time he has carried his bat in two years with Durham.



Reverse gear . . . Nottinghamshire's top scorer Chris Read resorts to the unorthodox during his unbeaten 66 at Trent Bridge yesterday ROSS KINNAIRD

Nottinghamshire v Surrey

Benjamin strikes a rich seam

David Foot at Trent Bridge

SURREY, bereft of some of their more famous names, took a cursory look at the grassy strip, put Nottinghamshire in and began as though intent on noonday demolition in pursuit of the silverware.

The Trent Bridge pitch extended a generous hand of welcome to the seamers, perhaps aware of the havoc that the Surrey off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has achieved this season. Unhappily for Nottinghamshire, Surrey got to work on it first.

Joey Benjamin steamed in as though it was his birthday and took three wickets in his opening 10 overs. There was much playing and missing as tha ball curved away from the right-handers, even if Paul Johnson appeared surprised when adjudged to have given a thin edge to the keeper.

Martin Bicknell, whose advocates for his inclusion in the Ashes party remain significant, and later Ben Hollioake sustained the pressure and Nottinghamshire were 80 for five at lunch, doubtless wishing they were fielding instead.

The bowlers continued to find consistent bounce and movement, rather like one imagines it must have been when Surrey's Bill Lockwood and "Curly" Richardson used to run through the opposition without apparently having to try too hard.

Nottinghamshire were all out for 213, a total of more substance than once seemed possible. Jason Gallian had briefly anchored, not always easily, until taken at second slip. Too many home batsmen for comfort perished there or behind the wicket.

Then came Graeme Archer, defiant and po-faced as an England football coach pretending that he still had the virtues on his side. He gripped the bat with an adhesive determination for nearly two hours before perishing in the same area as Gallian.

Above all Chris Read cut Surrey short in mid-sentence. Not only is he a wicketkeeper of much promise, keenly monitored as future Test material, but a batsman with a thirst for uphill battle. He was 66 not out at the end, not far short of his career best.

Once his batting as a boy cricketer was rated in Devon; now here he was emerging from dogged defence to parade an unorthodox straight whack off Benjamin and pull Saqlain over square leg for his 50. A last-wicket stand with Andy Oram produced 40 runs to frustrate Surrey. Saqlain was barely needed; his fleeting reward was a short-leg catch.

The track eased as the day went on. Surrey were left 33 overs to face and they too were occasionally apt to falter outside the off stump. Ian Ward, who started well enough, disappeared to Oram's first ball. In the next over Jason Ratcliffe was snatched at third slip. Surrey finished on 84 for two, with Mark Butcher and Hollioake cautiously building an innings which they hope will extend their 21-point lead at the top of the table.

Top bowler Fraser in a world summit meeting

ANGUS FRASER, in England's squad to face the world one-day champions Sri Lanka at Lord's today in the final of the Emirates Triangular Tournament, has become the world's top bowler according to the Wisden rankings.

The Middlesex seamer becomes the first England player to top the table since the list began two years ago thanks to the 18 wickets he took in the last two Tests against South Africa which took him above Allan Donald. The previous highest England player was Nasser Hussain who reached third place in the batting rankings in 1997.

If Fraser plays, Lancashire's Peter Martin would probably be one of those left out of the 14-man squad. The Warwickshire left-armer Ashley Giles also looks like being left out for a third time.

Unlike Fraser, Adam Hollioake's form has nosedived. The 26-year-old all-rounder scored one against South Africa at Edgbaston, dropped a catch off Pat Symcox who went on to turn the game in his team's favour and bowled two overs for 22 runs. In his last 13 one-day innings for England he has passed 50 only once.

Leicestershire v Middlesex

Weekes saves day

Neville Foulger at Grace Road

THE last time Mark Ramprakash scored a century for Middlesex was the last time they won a championship match. If that scenario repeats itself here then Leicestershire can kiss goodbye to their rapidly fading hopes of reclaiming the title they clinched two years ago by beating Middlesex by an innings and 74 runs.

An hour into yesterday's play Leicestershire must have had visions of winning this game, too. Middlesex, beaten in two days by Sussex in their last match, were in disarray at 20 for four but it was another 81 overs before the home county claimed the fifth wicket, Ramprakash and Paul Weekes scoring centuries and sharing a stand of 229.

It waa an outstanding effort from both men. They batted with great care, caution and considerable technique, never failing to punish the many bad deliveries on a slow-paced pitch.

Weekes was dropped three times on his way to 139, most crncially by Vince Wells, specially moved to leg-slip, moments after tha hatsman had reached 50. From that point on he grew in confidence, even outscoring the impressive Ramprakash whose last century for his county was on June 2, against Glamorgan. Since then Middlesex have lost four and drawn four to slip down the table.

Ramprakash was finally out for 110, edging to Paul Nixon in trying to pull Simmons, and Weekes was bowled by James Ormond.

Wells had claimed the wickets of Justin Langer, Mike Gatting and Owais Shah in six deliveries for one run after Ormond had clean-bowled David Goodchild in the fourth over.

David Millns also claimed two late wickets to restore some home pride hut Middlesex finished on 293 for eight to take the day.

Essex v Gloucestershire

Best of Hancock is no joke for Such and the youngsters

Nigel Fuller at Colchester

INSPIRED by Tim Hancock's century, Gloucestershire gave Essex a taste of their own medicine as they amassed 401 for five to lay a solid foundation for a victory which would sustain their championship title challenge.

Two years ago at the same Castle Park venue they were brushed aside by an innings after being forced to reply to a 500-plus total built around a century from Graham Gooch. Now a depleted Essex team spent the day chasing leather to all parts under a stamina-sapping sun.

A friendly pitch provided Hancock with ample opportunity to drive and pull with impunity after the teenager Jamie Grove had dismissed Robert Cunliffe in the sixth over. That represented the visitors' only setback in the opening session.

While Hancock was posting a career-best 135, which included 20 fours and a six — his previous highest was against Essex four years ago — Peter Such found himself subjected to another hard day's labour on a ground which will hardly figure in his list of favourites. A year ago he sent down 86 overs in an innings against Leicestershire. He had nothing to show for 38 yesterday costing 121.

Watching his labours and expressing sympathy as Matthew Windows and Robert Dawson turned the acrew with another century stand was Brian "Tonker" Taylor, the Essex captain and England selector in the Seventies. "Four-day cricket was supposed to encourage spinners but that simply hasn't happened," he said. "I fear they will become an extinct species unless we encourage them with uncovered pitches and three day games."

Scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship

DURHAM v LANCASHIRE

Riverside: Lancashire (4pts) lead Durham (4) by 61 runs with nine second-innings wickets remaining.

LANCASHIRE
First Innings
N Wood c Pratt b Wood 14
J P Crawley b Killeen 4
N H Fairbrother b Killeen 0
A Flintoff b Wood 2
G O Lloyd c Collingwood b Lugsden 10
†W K Hegg c Speak b Killeen 12
*Wasim Akram c Lewis b Wood 58
O Yates b Killeen 5
G Chapple b Lugsden 16
P M Ridgway c Morris b Killeen 35
G Keedy not out 6
Extras (b10, lb9, nb2) 21
Total (47.2 overs) 196
Fall of wickets: 15, 16, 21, 30, 43, 69, 80, 111, 178.
Bowling: Wood 20-4-70-3; Killeen 15.2-4-49-5; Lugsden 8-1-45-2; Collingwood 4-0-13-0.

DURHAM
First Innings
J J B Lewis not out 70
J E Morris lbw b Wasim 12
A J Daley b Wasim 0
*D C Boon c Flintoff b Wasim 3
P D Collingwood c Hegg b Ridgway 36
†A Pratt c Hegg b Ridgway 0
J Wood c Flintoff b Ridgway 10
N Killeen b Chapple 12
J P Searle lbw b Chapple 0
S Lugsden b Chapple 0
N J Speak absent 0
Extras (lb3, w8, nb4) 18
Total (40 overs) 168
Fall of wickets: 25, 29, 35, 107, 107, 121, 148, 152, 158.
Bowling: Wasim 12-3-39-3; Chapple 10-0-37-3; Ridgway 10-1-51-3; Flintoff 4-0-17-0; Keedy 4-0-11-0.

LANCASHIRE
Second Innings
J P Crawley b Killeen 14
N Wood not out 5
O Chapple not out 0
Extras (lb4) 4
Total (for 1, 6.2 overs) 23
Fall of wickets: 19.
To bat: G D Lloyd, N H Fairbrother, A Flintoff, †W K Hegg, *Wasim Akram, O Yates, P M Ridgway, G Keedy.
Bowling: Wood 3.2-0-18-0; Killeen 3-2-1-1
Umpires: B Dudleston and R Julian.

ESSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Colchester: Gloucestershire (4) have scored 401 runs for the loss of five first-innings wickets against Essex (2).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
First Innings
R J Cunliffe c Hyam b Grove 7
T H C Hancock c & b Law 135
O R Newson c Hyam b Grove 44
*N W Alleyne c Peters b Law 47
M G N Windows not out 59
R I Dawson b Ilott 46
†R C Russell not out 0
Extras (b15, lb14, w2, nb16) 47
Total (for 5, 104 overs) 401
Fall of wickets: 21, 144, 253, 258, 382.
To bat: M C J Ball, J Lewis, A M Smith, C A Walsh.
Bowling: Ilott 14-1-55-1; Grove 19-5-85-2; Irani 8-1-27-0; Law 13-0-51-2; Such 38-6-121-0; Grayson 11-4-33-0.

ESSEX: D D J *Robinson*, I N *Flanagan*, T P Hodgson, R C Irani, *†A P Grayson*, S D Peters, D R Law, †B J Hyam, M C Ilott, J G Grove, P M Such.
Umpires: M J *Kitchen* and A Clarkson.

NORTHANTS v WARWICKSHIRE

Northampton: Warwickshire (4pts) trail Northamptonshire (3) by 302 runs with 10 first-innings wickets remaining.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
First Innings
A L Penberthy c Powell b Smith 128
R J Bailey c Piper b Brown 0
M B Loye c Lara b Brown 1
*K M Curran c Penney b Brown 17
D J G Sales lbw b Brown 4
†D Ripley c Piper b Munton 98
G P Swann b Giddins 38
J P Taylor not out 4
O Follett c Piper b Giddins 0
J F Brown b Smith 0
D E Malcolm b Giddins 8
Extras (b13, lb6, nb6) 27
Total (97 overs) 319
Fall of wickets: 10, 18, 44, 52, 247, 305, 307, 307, 308.
Bowling: Giddins 23-8-56-3; Brown 17-2-68-4; Munton 18-4-48-1; Smith 28-8-86-2; Wagh 10-4-36-0; Lara 1-0-4-0.

WARWICKSHIRE
First Innings
M J Powell not out 4
M A Wagh b Taylor 8
†K J Piper not out 9
Extras (lb1) 1
Total (for 1, 5 overs) 17
Fall of wickets: 8.
To bat: D L Hemp, *B C Lara, A Singh, O R Brown, N M K Smith, T L Penney, E S H Giddins, T A Munton.
Bowling: Malcolm 3-1-12-0; Taylor 2-0-4-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and K E Palmer.

KENT v WORCESTERSHIRE

Canterbury: Worcestershire (2pts) have scored 281 runs for the loss of six first-innings wickets against Kent (2).

WORCESTERSHIRE First Innings
W P C Weston c Smith b Patel 60
E Wilson c Fulton b Thompson 14
*T M Moody run out 41
V S Solanki b Headley 15
A Habeeb c Marsh b Patel 31
D A *Leatherdale c Marsh b Headley* 24
†S J Rhodes not out 33
S R Lampitt not out 22
Extras (b12, lb5, w2, nb22) 41
Total (for 6, 104 overs) 281
Fall of wickets: 40, 104, 143, 171, 226, 228.
To bat: R K Illingworth, R J Chapman, M J Rawnsley.
Bowling: Headley 24-7-59-2; Thompson 14-1-59-1; Phillips 18-1-58-0; Fleming 16-4-38-0; Patel 33-12-52-2.

KENT: E T Smith, D P Fulton, R W T Key, C L Hooper, A P Wells, B J Phillips, M V Fleming, *†S A Marsh*, O W Headley, J B Thompson, M M Patel.
Umpires: V A Holder and J W Lloyds.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

Trent Bridge: Surrey (4pts) trail Nottinghamshire (1) by 128 runs with eight first-innings wickets remaining.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE First Innings
G E Welton c Batty b Benjamin 7
*J E R Gallian c Butcher b Hollioake 23
U Afzaal c Batty b Benjamin 8
P Johnson c Batty b Benjamin 8
G F Archer c Butcher b Bicknell 37
C M Tolley c Hollioake b Bicknell 4
P J Franks c Butcher b Hollioake 8
†C M W Read not out 66
P A Strang run out 18
K P Evans c Shahid b Saqlain 8
A R Oram b Hollioake 18
Extras (lb3, w2, nb10) 15
Total (70.3 overs) 213
Fall of wickets: 15, 39, 47, 51, 85, 92, 112, 157, 173.
Bowling: Bicknell 25-8-64-2; Benjamin 16-2-59-3, Hollioake 15.3-5-45-3; Saqlain 10-3-30-1; Butcher 4-1-12-0.

SURREY First Innings
*M A Butcher not out 38
I J Ward c Archer b Oram 24
J D Ratcliffe c Strang b Franks 1
B C Hollioake not out 18
Extras (lb2) 2
Total (for 2, 33 overs) 84
Fall of wickets: 36, 37.
To bat: N Shahid, J A Knott, †J N Batty, M P Bicknell, I D K Salisbury, Saqlain Mushtaq, J E Benjamin.
Bowling: Franks 8-2-27-1; Evans 7-2-19-0; Oram 9-3-10-1; Tolley 8-1-22-0; Strang 3-2-4-0.
Umpires: H D *Bird* and T E Jesty.

LEICESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

Leicester: Middlesex (2pts) have scored 293 runs for the loss of eight first-innings wickets against Leicestershire (3).

MIDDLESEX First Innings
D J Goodchild b Ormond 0
J L Langer c Nixon b Wells 10
*M R Ramprakash c Nixon b Simmons 110
M W Gatting lbw b Wells 0
O A *Shah b Wells* 2
P N Weekes b Ormond 139
†K R Brown not out 14
J P Hewitt b Millns 0
C J Bird b Millns 5
R L Johnson not out 0
Extras (b5, lb2, nb6) 13
Total (for 8, 112 overs) 293
Fall: 1, 15, 18, 20, 249, 280, 283, 291.
To bat: P C R Tufnell
Bowling: Millns 22-7-60-2; Ormond 23-11-46-2; Wells 14-6-27-3; Simmons 22-6-56-1; Dakin 15-2-46-0; Brimson 12-5-38-0; Maddy 4-2-11-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE: V J Wells, D L Maddy, I J Sutcliffe, B F Smith, *P V Simmons, A Habib*, †P A Nixon, J M Dakin, D J Millns, J Ormond, M T Brimson.

SOMERSET v DERBYSHIRE

Taunton: Somerset (4pts) trail Derbyshire (2) by 194 runs with five first-innings wickets remaining.

DERBYSHIRE First Innings
M J Slater c Turner b Caddick 18
M R May lbw b Bulbeck 14
R M S Weston c Kennis b Caddick 73
K J Barnett lbw b Rose 30
M E Cassar c Turner b Rose 4
B J *Sandlove c Sowler b Pierson* 49
I G Sleckwell b Bulbeck 44
*D G Cork b Bulbeck 0
†K M Krikken not out 10
P A J DeFreitas c Kennis b Rose 32
K J Dean c Trescothick b Rose 1
Extras (lb8, nb1b) 18
Total (65.5 overs) 290
Fall of wickets: 26, 51, 124, 132, 172, 246, 246, 250, 287
Bowling: Caddick 21-6-72-2; Rose 16.5-1-75-4; Bulbeck 12-2-67-3; Parsons 13-0-60-0; *Pierson* 3-1-8-1.

SOMERSET First Innings
*P D Bowler c Cork b Dean S
P C L Holloway b Cork 8
M E Trescothick c *Krikken* b Cork D
M N Lathwell b Dean 11
G J Kennis not out 37
K A Parsons c Krikken b Dean 30
A R K *Pierson not not* D
Extras (lb1, nb6) 7
Total (for 5, 38 overs) 96
Fall of wickets: 7, 10, 11, 31, 90.
To bat: †R J Turner, G D Rose, M Bulbeck, A R Caddick.
Bowling: Cork 9-4-17-2; Dean 13-5-24-3; DeFreitas 8-2-26-0; Cassar 4-1-14-0; *Slackwell* 4-1-14-0.

Second XI Championship

Bristol: Gloucestershire 303 (O I Macmillan 115). Sussex 82-2.
Cleethorpes: Lancashire 201-8 dec (J Haynes 78no, P McKeown 52, M Brown 55). Nottinghamshire 11-0.
Chelmsford: Essex 190 (J S Foster 64; De La Pena 4-38, Batson 4-6). Worcestershire 208-3 (R C Driver not hurt 75).
South Shields: Durham 336-5 dec (M A Roseberry 145, R Robinson 86). Kent 50-1.
Walmley CC: Surrey 172 (G J Batty 91; Naheem Sajjad 5-55, Dagnall 4-19). Warwickshire 128-3.
York: Yorkshire 408-6 (C A Chapman 166, S Widdup 109) v Northamptonshire.

Other match

Abergavenny: ECB U-18 306 (G Haywood 66; Raza 4-47, Nawaz 4-71). Pakistan U-19 23-0.

Today

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT: Final (10.45; one day): **Lord's:** England v Sri Lanka.
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0; four days). ***Cardiff:*** Glamorgan v Yorkshire.

● English cricket faces a review of security after the umpire John Holder was knocked to the ground by a supporter at the end of the England v South Africa one-day match at Edgbaston.

An England and Wales Cricket Board spokesman said the incident would be reviewed by the ground management working committee in the lead up to next year's World Cup.

Holder was walking towards the pavilion when the man attempted to snatch a stump fitted with a miniature camera worth £10,000. Stewards restrained the fan and he was taken into custody by police but later released

"I'm alright but it's not something I want to happen again," said Holder.

"I think he wanted a stump. I'm not going to make a complaint. The stewards dealt with it."

● The Glamorgan spam bowler Steve Watkin has failed to recover from a side strain and misses today's Championship match against Yorkshire in Cardiff Watkin has not bowled since the first innings of the match against Warwickshire last month and an MRI scan has revealed a "not spot" that needs continued rest.

Yorkshire are without Paul Hutchison who took eight wickets in last weekend's Roses defeat by Lancashire but has been diagnosed as having a broken right thumb. He is expected to be out for about a week. The England Under-19 pace bowler Ryan Sidebottom takes his place.

● Rose Turner of Australia has been appointed head of the International Cricket Council's programme to develop the game outside of the Test-playing countries.

Tennis

Rising Briton avoids pitfall

Richard Jago in New Haven

THUNDER, lightning and flash-flooding coincided dramatically with Tim Henman's first tournament appearance as a top-10 player.

One torrent opened a hole in a road close to the stadium here, into which an unsuspecting commuter pitched his car. But Henman, awaiting his start in the Pilot Pen International, is more aware than he used to be of pitfalls on apparently routine journeys.

Henman made his way reassuringly through an opening match with the Italian Vincente Santopadre. He was calm and and full of purpose: he served well and volleyed excellently in a 6-2, 6-3 success. It took less than an hour to dispose of the world No. 132.

Henman, newly installed at No. 10, is working hard on ensuring he goes into action with his mind fully switched on. "It's about having a clear picture of how you want to play the match," he said. "It can be that when you are over-confident you don't think so specifically . . . today I knew what I wanted to do. I am still learning about this area but it has definitely improved."

Henman varied the placement of his serves well against a left-hander who gave him enough high returns with which to enjoy punching volleys. Only eight points were conceded on Henman's delivery in the match.

Santopadre was also reluctant to advance to the net, a shortcoming which may be less evident in his compatriot Davide Sanguinetti. Today Henman plays the talented late developer who caused one of Wimbledon's biggest surprises by reaching the quarter-finals as a qualifier. Yesterday Sanguinetti beat the 12th seed Fabrice Santoro.

The ATP Tour's earliest developer experienced a special day. Llayton Hewitt, the youngest player to win a title when he captured the Australian Hard Court Championship at 16 years 10 months; pronounced himself unworried about following his win over Sargis Sargsian by meeting Pete Sampras.

That attitude has already worked well. In January, while still at school, Hewitt beat Andre Agassi and Jonas Bjorkman. And against Sampras he played a fine second set hut lost 6-1, 7-6.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, defending champion, could do with such spirit. Several times recently the Russian has said he is tired of the Tour and that he has no motivation. Todd Woodbridge set things right for him. The Australian lost the first nine games before subsiding 6-0, 6-2. Kafelnikov now plays Gustavo Kuerten in a battle of former French champions.

Sport in brief

Rugby League

The Wigan fly-half Henry Paul has reacted with dismay to New Zealand's decision to give Super League clubs first option on British-based players at the time of the Tests against Australia in October.

"It really sucks, there's no better way to put it," he said. "I'm shattered by the decision." However Wigan's Australian coach John Monie said he may yet agree to release Paul for the series.

Cycling

Laurent Roux, Peter van Petegem and Lars Michaelsen, the three TVM riders who quit the Tour de France in protest over the drugs scandal, were questioned by French police in Reims yesterday.

Chess

Michael Adams, ranked fourth in the world, has been voted the British Federation's player of the year, writes Leonard Barden. Matthew Sadler was placed second and Luke McShane, 14, third.

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Surrey get down to business, page 15
World turns back on Lindsay, page 13
Lancs the comeback kids, page 15
Hoddle hits out at El Tel, page 14

SportsGuardian

European Athletics Championships

Campbell's kingdom . . . the Briton punches the air in delight as he beats his compatriot Dwain Chambers in the Nep Stadium last night PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL PROBST

Campbell leads gold rush

Duncan Mackay sees a British 100 metres one-two in Budapest

BRITAIN's gold rush started in spectacular fashion at the European championships when Darren Campbell and Dwain Chambers took first and secood in the 100 metres at the Nep Stadium here last night. It was an especially sweet moment for Campbell because his time of 10.04sec took 0.04 off the championship record his coach Linford Christie had set in Helsinki four years ago.

Appropriately the former Olympic champion was on hand to witness the moment from the BBC TV studio here as Campbell followed the trail blazed by him on the last three occasions the championship has been held.

Campbell had promised fireworks and his performance lit up the famous old stadium. First he set a personal best of 10.11 when winning his semi-final, then he exploded from his blocks in the final to leave Chambers and the Greek Georgious Papadias fighting for the silver. It was e battle that Britain won as Chambers clocked 10.10. Marlon Devonish, the third Briton in the final, finished fifth in 10.24.

Campbell, 24, is now firmly back on track to establish himself among the world's fastest men. After finishing second over 100 and 200 metres to Trinidad's Ato Boldon at the 1992 World Junior Championships, he dropped out of the sport two years later to play centre-forward for non-League Weymouth.

But the offer of being coached by Christie tempted him back to the sport in 1996. He will not have to face any big bruising Beazer Homes League centre-backs again after this performance.

It was a good night for Chambers too. The 20-year-old, a Belgrave club-mate of Campbell, had served notice in the semi-final that he was the real deal, looking the part for the first time since stepping up into the senior ranks as he won in 10.15, his fastest since he set the world junior record of 10.06 last year.

He took 0.04sec off the championship record of his coach Linford Christie

After he crossed the line his training partners Paul Gray and Jamie Baulch were the first to break through the security cordon to embrace him. But Campbell met the happiest man at the end of his slow joyous circuit, when Christie was there to greet him.

Together, Campbell and Chambers surely have the ability to help drive each other to the kind of heights Christie once scaled for Great Britain.

There was some memorable sprinting in the women's 100m, where Christine Arron stressed to a European record of 10.73, taking 0.04 off Irina Privalova's four-year-old mark. It made the 25-year-old Frenchwoman the third fastest woman in history behind the Americans Florence Griffith-Joyner and Marion Jones.

However, there was only heartbreak for Paula Radcliffe. She was carried off after finishing a disappointing fifth in the 10,000m. It was the same old story for the British team captain as she was left powerless to respond when, after doing all the hard work, she was outsprinted on the final lap.

The Bedford runner took the lead with five laps to go of the 25-lap race and was still ahead with 300 metres to go when the Olympic champion Fernanda Ribeiro and Sonia O'Sullivan passed her. O'Sullivan then moved into a different gear to fly past Ribeiro as Radcliffe's legs buckled.

The Irishwoman, making her debut at the distance, took the tape in 31min 29.33sec, having taken nearly three seconds out of the Portuguese runner in the last 150m. It was O'Sullivan's second European title, having taken the 3,000m crown in Helsinki four years ago.

Radcliffe, whose time was 31:36.51, still awaits her first medal on the track.

Having finished fifth and fourth over the 5,000m in the 1996 Olympics and 1997 World Championships respectively, she had hoped her lack of a sprint finish would not prove such a problem over the longer distance.

Pinto accused, page 14

Distaste for old Johnny Foreigner grumbles on

Paul Weaver

THERE are still people out there who think that Germans wear funny steel hats with spikes on the top. All Frenchmen, they suspect, reek of garlic and Gauloises and make rotten police inspectors, and the Dutch are a race of terminal tulip munchers. Johnny Speight may be dead but Alf Garnett is alive and well.

Alf feels particularly at home in the world of British sport where Johnny Foreigner, it seems, may not have integrated quite as well as we thought.

Sport seems to go along with Nancy Mitford, who once wrote: "Abroad is unutterably bloody and all foreigners are fiends."

You may think that in football and in cricket the overseas manager or coach has made a considerable impact, and so he has. But he is still a long way from being accepted.

At Middlesex CCC their bright new coach John Buchanan has run into some weary resistance from the older pros. This echoes the trouble Dean Jones and Les Stillman had at Derbyshire, whose miserable fortunes they transformed before some players ganged up on them and kicked them out. Chris Adams and Devon Malcolm were lost in the process and now some feel this feebly run club should instead have got rid of some older players, such as Kim Barnett.

Football is not doing any better, according to a little piece in Total Sport. The magazine interviewed three of the best-known home-grown managers, Harry Redknapp of West Ham, Joe Kinnear of Wimbledon and Dave Bassett of Nottingham Forest, and some of their views are, well, make your own mind up.

Bassett says: "Foreign managers are in vogue but the demand for English managers will come back. Arsenal and Chelsea have done all right, but then I wouldn't really call Vialli or Gullit managers in the same way that me, Harry and Joe are. Vialli's not going to go up to Wycombe to watch a game, is he?

"Sam Hammam at Wimbledon wouldn't have e manager who spends the week in nightclubs living it up. He wants his manager working."

Then there is Redknapp: "Vialli's been a great player but he's a figurehead. He ain't gonna be grafting that much. He ain't gonna be out there every afternoon or going to watch the reserve side. He wouldn't know half the players at Chelsea, if the truth be known. He probably doesn't know the kids at the club. Those sort of managers couldn't survive at Wimbledon. Anyone can buy world-class players like Zola."

And here is Kinnear: "Gullit and Vialli were brought to Chelsea so they could pick up the phone and entice great players better than we could, but I don't agree with that. If the finances are there, big players will come. The people who are coming in are household names and they're smart enough to know not to come to teams that need a lot of work."

There is no gratitude here for what the foreign player or coach has brought to the domestic game.

Only four clubs, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea, are capable of winning this season's Premiership. They are all led, or jointly led, by managers who are not English. There are more candidates for relegation, and Forest and Wimbledon are two of them.

Are Bassett, Kinnear and Redknapp bitter because they have not managed to land a big job? Perhaps their knowledge of European football is not good enough — Redknapp has done a fine job but almost took West Ham down after signing a series of duffers from the Continent. Would Zola want to play for managers like these?

AS for the cricket, Middlesex went out of their way to find the best in the business when they appointed the Dick Spring look-alike Buchanan, after the retirement of Don Bennett after 29 years.

The painstaking, very thorough Buchanan, who led Queensland to two Sheffield Shields in three seasons after they had never won the trophy, was the choice of the thoughtful former Middlesex wicketkeepr Paul Downton, who had consulted the respected Australian David Gilbert, now working miracles at Sussex. These foreign fiends are everywhere.

Time runs out for British League

Paul Rees on Twickenham's firm stance against its clubs

PLANS for a British League this season were finally kicked into touch by Twickenham last night. The Rugby Football Union then urged England's top clubs to publish their fixture lists for a league season due to begin on September 5.

The RFU's management board had hastily convened o meeting at a request of the Allied Dunbar Premiership One clubs, who had failed to move the board's chairman Brian Baister during discussions yesterday about the immediate creation of a British League. The board unanimously agreed that the idea was impractical this season for "regulatory, logistical and contractual" reasons.

Baister warned the clubs not to arrange friendlies with the Welsh rebel clubs Cardiff and Swansea. The three options open to the English sides are to conform; to arrange the extra fixtures they say they require by reapplying to join European competitions; or to break away, a threat which has not yet been uttered despite the brinkmanship of recent weeks.

"There was a strong level of support in the board meeting to discuss the possibility of a cross-border competition starting in the 1999-2000 season," said Baister. "That will form part of the agenda at our meeting next month. We discussed the matter of Cardiff and Swansea and we expect our clubs to abide by the spirit of the Mayfair Agreement. I want to see their league fixtures as a matter of urgency."

The Welsh Rugby Union, which was in close contact with Baister yesterday, will this morning tell Cardiff and Swansea to sign loyalty agreements for a year — which would allow them to take part in the Welsh Premier Division, which kicks off on Saturday week, and Europe this season — or take their leave of the game in Wales.

Wheeler . . . confident

The two clubs have started to make conciliatory noises. The WRU has said it is prepared to grant them permission to play the English clubs in midweek friendlies next season but not on league or European Saturdays.

Leicester's chief executive Peter Wheeler had said earlier that the new season would start on September 5 come what may.

Meanwhile Saracens have signed the Natal centre Jeremy Thompson and the former Harlequins and Australia lock Troy Coker.

Australia have turned down a request by England to add a second Test to their tour next year. England are scheduled to play a one-off Test in Sydney on June 26 but wanted a second Test in Brisbane a week later.

The South African Rugby Football Union will next month name its first black president. The lawyer Silas Nkanunu is the only nomination to fill the post left vacant by the resignation of the controversial former president Louis Luyt.

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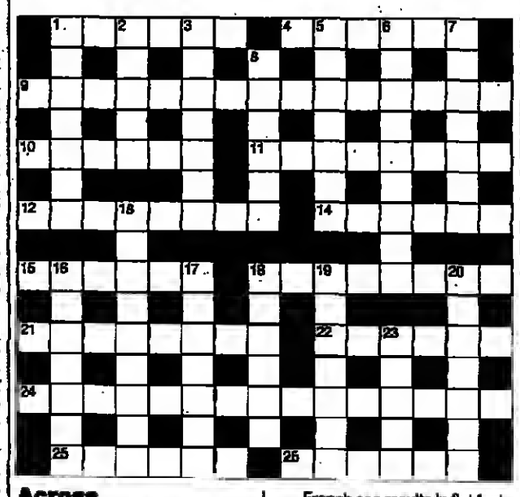
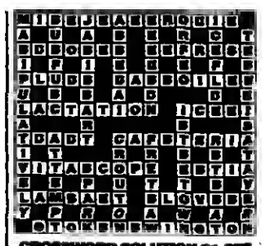
While so many of us grew up personally debunking the myth of the sex-phobic feminist in our own bedrooms, the media hung on to that canard the way the exorcist clutches to his garlic cloves and crucifix.
Sex and feminism

G2 page 4

Guardian Crossword No 21,358

Set by Paul





CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,357

Across

1 A cause for maintaining pose (5)
4 See 22
9 Injury restricts veteran Italian team, about 50, once a power in the land (8,9)
10 See 14
11 Has a lengthy stretch and a cage for a prisoner (8)
12 Card with lion sent in the mail, perhaps? (8)
14,8,10 'Methuselah's Dead', possibly, by 24 (3,3,3,3,3,3)
15 Game score halved by evil return (6)
18 Establishment failed tragic Princess followed by tabloid charge (8)
21 Applies fresh colour with pen, and is Art Nouveau (8)
22,4 Aggregate in polluted French sea results in flat feet (6,6)
24 Gay men weren't his novel! (5,9)
25 Principality needs a Nobel Peace Prize winner (6)
26 See 16

Down

1,18down Changed, fresher attitude made it unnecessary for cleaner (7,6)
2 Mongrel is vexed (5)
3 Weirdo gets the occasional delivery (7)
5 Sheepish male needs some fortification (7)
6 Women's party; no-one straight is in for a frightful night! (9)
7 Newspaper seller keeps 100 in shoe (7)
8 See 14
13 Cast-iron plane is without equal (9)
16,26 Provides definition for those raised out of curiosity (7,6)
17 Moonlight etc, so up comes Beelzebub (7)
18 See 1down
19 Agonise replacing Queen with diamonds (should be adequate) (7)
20 Omnipotent attire? (7)
23 Deduction of 101 to leave 50 standing (5)

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